

# Discussion Guide

Use the following questions for your Community Group discussions. It is not required that all will be used. Be sensitive to the flow of conversation and the leading of the Holy Spirit.



## Part 2: Significance

**Warm Up Question:** Since last week's GROUP talk, how have you been reminded that you are the complete package? OR What is your life verse? *[the verse that seems to follow you or speak to you the most in life]*

**ONLINE GROUPS:** *As people are signing on, prompt group members to type some key words or phrases from today's TEACH that stuck out to them. You can choose to discuss a few of them or not as time permits.*

### DISCUSSION

In the following questions, you may want to share a particular experience from your past or present or you can speak in general about the emotions of rejection. *[Leaders: Remember, these are prompts to facilitate discussion and do not necessarily need to be read word-for-word or in sequence to have a successful group discussion.]*

1. In what types of relationships have you experienced rejection in the past? *[romantic, platonic, professional, church, school, etc.]*
2. What do you find is most difficult about being rejected?
3. Before Christ, how did you handle rejection? *[made me bitter, built walls, retaliation, etc.]* How has this changed since Christ? *[don't take it personal, try to see the good in it, etc.]*
4. Think about a specific time when rejection was very difficult for you. How did you feel then? How do you feel now about that same situation? Have you recovered? How, if at all, has it affected you in other relationships?

When Pastor was discussing “Approval Addiction,” what was going through your mind? OR ...

1. Can you relate to what he said about the desire for others’ approval in your life, either in the past or now? Explain.
2. Share a time when someone’s disapproval--either expressed or perceived--affected you in a memorable way? How did you feel? [*rejected, dejected, fine, an abnormal “I don’t care.”*] Did it affect your relationship with that person or with others or with yourself? [*For example, after the disapproval, were you bitter toward the person, angry with yourself or did you build walls to protect yourself from feeling rejected?*]

Consider Pastor’s example of the box-top. Share an experience when you have allowed others--friends, family, peers, bosses, culture--to define you.

How does dependence on others’ approval bring bondage? Share an experience if it helps. How does Christ in your life set us free from this? Do you feel free now? If not, what can you do to be free?

## Deeper Dive [for further reflection]

Pastor’s ending thoughts are as follows:

Our position in Christ is what propels our purpose, which is kindled by passion. Who I am is my *position* and is not based on performance. What I do is not based on others’ opinion of what I do but is based on my *purpose*. Our passion must come from Christ, not our own ambitions. How are you doing with this?

1. Can you describe/define these in light of scripture and teachings on Significance?
  - a. Who you are? Our position v worldly view of performance.
  - b. What do you do? In God’s value system, this is our purpose, yet the world’s value is others’ opinions.
2. Why must our passion come from Christ?
3. How is your passion being shaped by Christ?
4. How is your purpose being propelled by your position?

**LEADERS: Please share your group’s testimonies and/or plans with Shalon Clevenger, Group Team Lead [[groups@abundantlifebaltimore.com](mailto:groups@abundantlifebaltimore.com); Slack #small-groups, 443-309-1429]**