

FILTERS

PART 1: THE GOD FILTER

INTRODUCTION

What we think about when we think about something influences *how* we feel about it. What do you think about when you think about God? What's your "God filter"?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Name a way you are similar to or different from your dad.
2. Many of us can tend to view God as: (1) a referee who throws flags and gives penalties, (2) the guy in the sky whom we ask for things, (3) a kind-hearted grandfatherly figure who is nice but can't relate to the current world, (4) a cloud that you know is up there but is hard to see and know, or (5) a homeboy who just gives you good feelings. Which of these pictures has reflected your view of God at some point during your life? What feelings have you associated with this view?
3. Read Matthew 6:9 and Galatians 4:6. How easy is it for you to approach God as a father? Why is that?
4. Through Jesus, God has demonstrated that he *loves* you, he's *with* you, and he's *for* you. Which of these three truths do you, at times, struggle to believe and why?
5. In photography, a filter blocks out what you don't want (e.g., bright light) so you can more clearly see the image you're trying to capture. What steps do you need to take to adjust your "God filter"?

MOVING FORWARD

For the next seven days, take note of moments when you are hesitant to approach God. Consider whether your "God filter" is in need of an adjustment.

WEEKLY READING

This week, reflect on these truths...

God loves you: Ephesians 3:14-19

God is with you: Philippians 4:8-9

God is for you: Ephesians 2:8-10