

Mystic



✓ Prepare in Advance

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the videos listed below (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✓ How Do You Know if You're a Good Christian?

Opening Discussion: Invite people to complete the sentence "A good Christian . . ." in as many ways as come to mind. As they are offered, write all the sentences on a poster in view of the group.

Have people rate *themselves* on each sentence from 1-5 (1=never, 2=almost never, 3=sometimes, 4=almost always, 5=always)

Discuss the following:

- When do you feel like you are being a good Christian? Why?
- When do you feel like you are being a bad Christian? Why?

✓ This Mystery

Listen to the song, "This Mystery" by Nichole Nordeman (link is on this session's website).

Say: Sometimes we evaluate our Christianity by how well we *follow the rules*, instead of viewing it as an ongoing relationship with God where we *grow in trust* and put our faith in something beyond ourselves. How are we to measure/evaluate our relationships with God? What are we to do to grow in that relationship?

Read the text for today, Philippians 3:4b-14, then view the *Bible Background Video*.

✓ Personal Reflection

Invite participants to make a To Do List of things that pertain to living in a relationship with God. What are the things they DO?

Invite people to think about each item on their list, and write a reason beside each one for WHY they do what they do.

Invite people to reflect on how easy or difficult it is for them to experience the following:

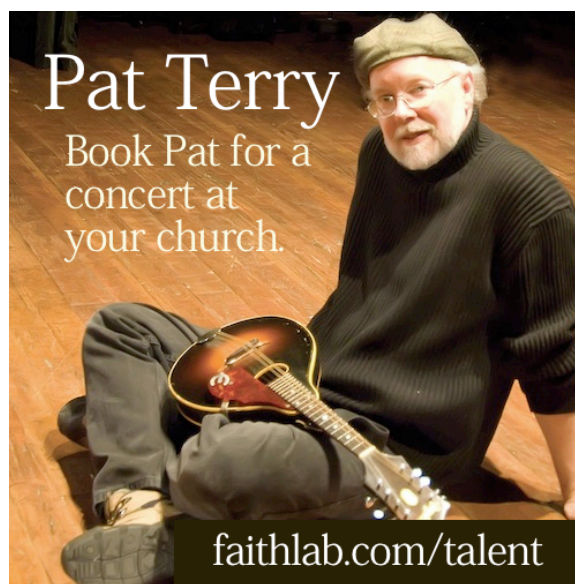
- a sense of being more deeply loved by God
- a sense of understanding how unconditional God's love is
- a sense of increasing dependence on God

- a sense of freedom from following God's laws for the law's sake
- a sense of knowing God more intimately than before

Invite people to share an experience where they grew in the above senses. What happened? How did the experience shift the way they thought, acted, believed?

Close with prayers of petition and thanksgiving for each other.

By Joy Yee



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