



Discussion
Gu'de

“buying devotion”
01/28/24

OUR ACTIONS AREN'T GOING TO *EARN* GOD'S LOVE

The Repeats (required)

They are the same, but *WE* change, so please discuss these with your group

- [Share the announcements (on FB thread) with your group]
- We're going to *open* by sharing God Moments about what He is doing in our lives, but save our prayer requests for the END of Pr'me. Go around and share your God Moments: how have you seen God working, either in your life or in the life of another over the past week? [Leaders: plan for a way to collect prayer requests at the end, then share them with your Pr'me]
- Is there anything that you want to share that has stood out to you so far from the current Point series?

The Reminder (required)

Read this section briefly to review the Point for everyone

- This Week's Point:
Our Actions Aren't Going to *Earn* God's Love
- This Week's Object Lesson:
collecting cereal box barcodes to earn a prize
- This Week's Bible Passage & Focus Verse: **Genesis 27:41 - 28:9**
Esau then realized how displeasing the Canaanite women were to his father Isaac; so he went ...and married Mahalath, the daughter of Ishmael son of Abraham, in addition to the wives he already had.
(v. 28:8~9, NIV)

The Reflection (required)

Discuss these to go deeper, *and more personal*, into applying the Point

- Did you ever save up barcodes, coupons, etc. to earn a prize?
- Read Genesis 28:6-9. Summarize from the Point what happened here: Why were the Canaanite women displeasing to Isaac (see Gen. 24:1-4)? What was Esau *trying* to accomplish by marrying another wife? Why was a daughter of Ishmael *no better* (see Gen. 28:6-9)?
- While this story was literally about Esau and Isaac, we often do the same thing—we try to earn our *heavenly* Father's love, but:
 - *Our Works Won't Work* (Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - All four of these categories are similar, but, specifically, what good things do people do for others to try to earn God's love?
 - Why won't these earn God's love?
 - *Our Rule-Following Falls Flat* (Mark 10:17-27 & Romans 3:20)
 - What type of "religious" things do people do to earn God's love?
 - What does this look like in your life?
 - *Our Dollars Don't Do It* (Mark 12:41-44)
 - How do you see people try to use money to earn God's love?
 - Have you ever found *yourself* thinking "if I just give more...?"
 - *Our Goodness Isn't Good Enough* (Isaiah 64:6a)
 - When you hear people say that they they're trying to be a "good person", what does that usually mean to them?
 - Compared to God, how good do we need to be (Isa. 64:6a)?
- What things sneak into your mind that lead you to attempt the above ways to try to earn God's love? Which do you tend to do most often?
- We don't need to try to earn God's love "*Because The Prize is Already in the Box!*". Have everyone open their Bibles to 1 John 4:9-10 and have one person read aloud as everyone follows along.
- Take some time to verbally worship together: Break this passage down phrase-by-phrase, and share at least one thing *per phrase* that you are grateful that God has done for you: "God thank you for ___"