

# 2017

## BEST YEAR EVER

# WEEK 6

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## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### **Introduction:**

This week, we are continuing our focus on the practical steps that we can take as a church and as individuals to make this our Best Year Ever. We'll talk about why it is important for us as followers of Jesus to find freedom and what it looks like for God's priorities to be our priorities.

### **Scripture:**

Genesis 2:15-17 — "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.'"

Luke 6:27-31,38 — "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. Do to others as you would like them to do to you...Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. This weekend, Brent shared a story of skiing totally unrestrained and enjoying every moment of it...until it ended in somersaults & a trek up the hill to find his scattered gear. Have you ever had a similar humorous experience?
2. Our scriptures this week give us a great picture of the freedom & generosity that God offers us and what he expects from us in return.
  - How have you experienced God's generosity?
  - Have you found a good way to follow God's example by being generous in your own life?
3. Adam & Eve desire more than what God has given them and they attempt to fill that desire, that void, by eating from the tree. Although our lives may seem more complex than Adam & Eve's, we still experience that same desire.
  - What are the things that you gravitate towards when you are looking to fill that void?
4. When filling that void becomes a habit, our priorities tend to shift away from what they once were or what they should be. Think about the priorities that God has for your life & for our world. Is what's important to God also important to you? How or how not?
5. What adjustments could you make to give God more control of your life & priorities? How could you set yourself up to experience and share the generosity that we see modeled in Jesus?

### **Take the Next Step:**

Often, the area of our lives that feels most out of control is the area that God does not control. The next step is to quit pretending that it's fine: speak up and get some help. Check out Recovery at Cokesbury, enroll in Financial Peace University, or seek out a counselor. This can be the week that you begin to get your life back.