



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1 At some point in your faith, did you assume you had to earn God's approval with good behavior? Where do you think you got that idea?
- 2 How does the pattern of Christians messing up, seeking forgiveness, and then messing up again influence the way people outside of the faith view the church?
- 3 Andy suggested that following Jesus is not primarily about trying harder to behave better, but instead about letting God change you on the inside. What do you think about this?
- 4 In the scenarios below, talk about what it would look like to respond in such a way that your love for other people "may abound more and more."

SCENARIO #1

A colleague publicly takes full credit for a project on which you two collaborated. How do you respond?

SCENARIO #2

You learn that a friend has repeated something to others that you told him or her in confidence. How do you respond?

SCENARIO #3

A family member asked your advice but did not do what you suggested. Now things aren't going well for him or her. What do you do?

- 5 Consider the following statements and fill in the blanks.

I'm a better _____ than I was five years ago. In five more years, I want to be a better _____ than I am now.

In light of what you just wrote, why do you think you're better than you were five years ago? Did your behavior change or did your heart change? Or both?

- 6 Cleaning up a mess takes time. Unfortunately, there's no quick fix that will make you suddenly more happy, healthy, wealthy, or powerful. What are some good things that might happen on the inside—in your heart—as a result of taking the time to work through a mess?