

Message Summary

Transactional faith is a distorted belief that turns our relationship with God into a contract—believing that if we do our part, God is obligated to do His. But when we have a transactional faith, we miss God's heart.

3 Questions to Identify Transactional Faith

1. Do I follow God because of what He does for me or because of who He is?
2. Do I still trust God when He doesn't answer my prayer the way I want, or do I feel betrayed?
3. Do I serve God because I love Him or because I'm hoping for something in return?

Key Scripture

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you ... Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. ... On my bed I remember you ... I sing in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your right hand upholds me. Psalm 63:1, 3, 6-8 NIV

"But seek first [God's] kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33 NIV

Additional Scriptures

- 2 Timothy 2:13 NIV

Start Talking

Find a conversation starter for your group.

- How did you identify and remove idols from your life last week?
- Think about some of your closest relationships. What qualities do they have in common?

Start Thinking

Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read **Psalm 63:1, 3, 6-8**. How does David's relationship with God encourage you?
- Read **Matthew 6:33**. What are some ways you can practically seek God's kingdom first?

Start Sharing

Choose a question to create openness.

- Talk about a time when you felt like God let you down. How did you process your disappointments?
- What parts of your faith are transactional, rather than relational? What would it look like to let go of expectations and focus on God's heart?

Start Praying

Father, thank You for wanting a true relationship with us. We're sorry for the times when we've prioritized Your things over knowing You. Please help us seek You first in all that we do. We want to know You more. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start Doing

- Find a practical way to seek God first every day this week. Notice how your relationship with God grows as a result.
- Start the Bible Plan *What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus* using Plans With Friends: www.go2.lc/jesus
- Consider how you could love others by serving on the weekend or with a Local Mission Partner.