



Pre-Game | February 4

Opening Up:

- If you played a sport growing up, can you remember any pre-game speeches, rituals, or moments that stands out to you?
- When pumping yourself up for a big challenge who do call for encouragement? In other words, who do you call upon for your personal pre-game talk?
- In what area of your life do you need a pre-game type encouragement? (Have the group encourage one another with the gospel.)

Reference: John 5:1-18

Discuss:

1. How has the Sunday gathering served as a kind of pre-game talk for you?
2. In John 5:17 Jesus says that he and the Father are working. How is God at work in your life right now?
3. The religion of the Jews blinded them to the healing and renewal work of Jesus in the invalids life. How can our commitment to being right sometimes blind us from responding compassionately to the needs of others?
4. Jesus says in Matthew 9:13, "Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy, and not sacrifice." Have you learned what this means? What have you learned?
5. Any application of the law of God that does not lead us to worship God or love our neighbor has failed its original intent. (Matthew 22:37-40) The law elevates our need for God which in turn elevates our experience of grace. The more aware we are of the grace we have received, the more gracious we are in our lives. How has God led you be courageous in your grace giving?
6. On Sunday we introduced New City's new promise. *We are an imperfect people being courageous, believing in the power of Jesus to make all things new.* We want everyone who engages New City to see that this statement is who we are. What do you think about this statement?
7. Jesus claimed God was his Father, making him equal with God. (John 5:18) How has God the Father shown you his love through Jesus? How does our culture need to better see this kind of Fatherly love on display today?
8. New City Church's tagline is: all things | made new. (Revelation 21:5) What is in need of God's renewal work right now in your neighborhood? How are you being inspired to "get in the game" and do something about it?
9. Pray