

Curveball

Curveball—Week Two: Cynicism

Connect: Share about a time a “curveball” was thrown your way. Was it at work? In a relationship? Or was it an unexpected challenge or opportunity that came your way? Tell your group about the experience.

Grow

1. Who annoys you more, Eeyore or Tigger? Which would you be more likely to turn into after a few tough experiences in life?
2. Our early years tend to be marked by *Idealism* which eventually turns into *Realism* which eventually gives way to *Cynicism*. What happens to cause each one to morph into the next?
3. **Read Ecclesiastes 1:2-11.** Cynicism is a lack of hope for the future based on the failures of the past. If the curveball is cynicism, the bat to hit it with is called *Hope*. But to avoid striking out we sometimes refuse to step up to the plate. Why do you think this is so?
4. Scott shared two things that he is cultivating to combat cynicism: *Awe* and *Activity*.
 - a. What helps you land in a place of being *awestruck*?
 - **Read Romans 1:20.** When was the last time creation wowed you? How can you put yourself in a place where you're more likely to encounter this position of awe again soon?
 - b. What is it about *doing something* that helps us run from cynicism?
 - **Read Colossians 3:17, 23.** What does it look like to actively *do* what this says? Where are you doing it well? Where are you swinging and missing? What could you do to change that?
 - What activity of your life would be transformed into worship if you invited God to be a part of it with you? Mowing? Reading? Running? Hanging out with your family? Doing your everyday work? Or something else? Share what it is—or could be—for you.
5. **Read Ecclesiastes 3:11.** Scott said, *God set eternity in your heart and nothing will satisfy that longing fully this side of heaven, but what we do have until then is the thing that kills cynicism because it cuts it off at the root. HOPE.* What exactly this hope is that we have? Elaborate on it as a group. As you do, take note of two things: (1) Something you already knew you and needed a reminder, as well as (2) something new God wants to settle deeper into your heart and mind in the coming season.

Pray: Scott finished his message saying, *He set eternity in your heart... and eternity is exactly what He has in store for you.* Spend some time in prayer thanking God for the gift of eternal life with Him through the sacrifice Jesus made so we could be part of His family forever.

Next: Scott said, *Its really hard to be a playful cynic. Play tends to crush the spirit of cynicism.* What can you do to add more play to your life? Make a list of at least three things. More if you can! Now go do them!