

LIVE NO LIES

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SERMON RECAP

What if the things you've quietly accepted as "normal" are slowly pulling you away from Jesus—without you even noticing? Matt Reagan unpacked a sobering truth: cultural normalization is one of the most powerful forces shaping our souls, not through dramatic decisions, but through slow, unnoticed drift. Drawing on **Romans 12:2**, he challenges us to ask, *"What have I accepted as normal that Jesus may be inviting me to examine again?"* This message was for anyone longing to live with greater intention.

GET STARTED

- With Halloween coming up next month here are 2 questions. Do you have any superstitions? If so, what are they? Do you have any irrational fears? How did they start?

TAKE IT IN

- What encouraged and/or challenged you from the message this week? Why?

TALK IT OVER

Read Romans 12:1-2 in the NIV and/or NLT

- Matt pointed out that *"normal is not the same as true."* He gave examples of everyday things that slowly became normal — like tracking your kids' location or expecting same-day Amazon delivery. He then applied that same idea to things that form our souls, like the belief that *'you deserve to be happy'* or *'if someone hurts you, remove them from your life.'* **Can you think of something that has become so common in our culture that we rarely stop to question whether it's actually good or right? Is there a belief or habit in your own life that you've accepted as normal but haven't really brought before Jesus and asked, 'Is this actually true? Is this leading me toward life?'**
- Matt described a cycle: a deceptive idea enters, our desires are drawn to it, and then the world around us reinforces it until it feels like common sense. **Where do you see this cycle playing out most powerfully in everyday life — through social media,**

entertainment, advertising, or something else? Which part of that cycle — the deceptive idea, your own desires, or the cultural reinforcement — do you find hardest to recognize and resist in your own life? Why?

- Matt described drift as something that doesn't require a dramatic decision — you simply stop paying attention to the current pulling you along. He also listed practical rhythms like Scripture, prayer, Sabbath, community, generosity, confession, and fasting as ways to intentionally create space for the Spirit to reshape us. **Looking at your own daily and weekly rhythms right now, what is currently getting your first attention and best energy? In other words, what are some passions that have become bigger in your life than following Jesus (i.e. sports, a relationship)? What is one specific practice you could add or protect to be more intentional about who and what is forming you?**
- Matt shared that we need a community that makes the way of Jesus feel normal again — people whose lives make the Kingdom believable. **What can we do to help others realize following Jesus can be a normal way of life? Share how others have filled that role in your life.**
- Matt ended with a personal question: **'What am I helping make normal?' — in my home, my marriage, my friendships, my workplace, and my church. How seriously do we take the idea that each of us is actively creating a culture wherever we are? If the people closest to you — family, friends, coworkers — were asked what you make feel normal by the way you live, what do you think they would say? What would you want them to say?**

LIVE IT OUT

This week, think about how you've allowed worldly, cultural things to become normal in your life. Ask yourself these questions: What are the forces around you that are shaping you? Which are leading you closer to Jesus and which are pulling you further away? What are some deceptive ideas the Devil has whispered to you in the past that you've believed? How about right now?

Pray: *"Jesus, please lovingly expose the places where I have conformed to the world. Help me see those places and begin rooting those out of my life."*

MEMORIZE: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)