

## Good, for Goods Sake

*Doing good deeds for the right reasons – Matthew 6.1-4*

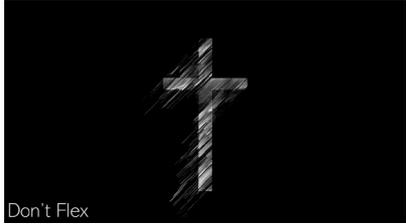
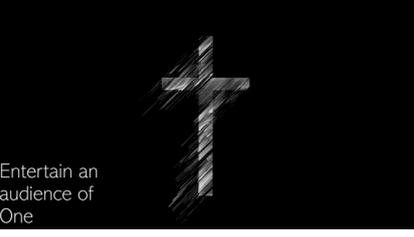
**Themes:** Good deeds, intention, reasons for doing something

**Summary:** A devotional discussion into the looking at the reasons behind a person's good deeds. One of the results of social media has been the need to document and record everything they do. For some, the things they do are not actually acts of good will to others, but rather opportunities to be praised and become self-righteous. How do we watch out for this trap as young Christians?

**How to use:** This resource is merely a guide. If you wish to use in its delivered form entirely, feel free to do so. If you wish to add, omit or edit anything, feel free to do so. It is intended to be a guide and provide some assistance in prep time for busy youth ministry leaders. For more info and resources like this, please visit [www.missionresourcing.org.nz/youth](http://www.missionresourcing.org.nz/youth)

SLIDE	Notes
	<p><b>1. Blank Slide</b> Take time for introductions, welcome, prayers etc.</p>
	<p><b>2. Discussion Question</b> <i>Can you think of a time when you felt underappreciated for doing something?</i> This can be light-hearted discussion question (good to have your own examples ready if needed) to launch into the lesson's main points.</p>
	<p><b>3. Matthew 6.1-4</b> Ask group to read through Matthew 6.1-4. Before inviting feedback and thoughts, watch video (next slide) and ask them to compare the video to the reading. What might we learn from what Jesus in talking about relation to the video and its purpose?</p>

**About this resource:** This resource is developed from TCYF Ministries under Mission Resourcing, Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa. It is available for use in any church, and may be freely edited and contextualized to any church setting, however please credit *Mission Resourcing, MCNZ* when doing so. Please note also that this resource does not necessarily reflect the views of the Methodist Church of New Zealand as an institution. [www.missionresourcing.org.nz/youth](http://www.missionresourcing.org.nz/youth)

	<p><b>4. Video</b></p> <p>The video should play directly off the PowerPoint, however if it doesn't, a downloadable version can be found at <a href="http://www.missionresourcing.org.nz/youth">www.missionresourcing.org.nz/youth</a> under <i>Resource</i>. Following the video, ask for feedback on the video and the reading as set out in the previous slide.</p>
	<p><b>5. Don't Flex</b></p> <p>There are 4 main takeaways for this lesson. The first, <i>Don't Flex</i>. Flex, in youth culture terms, is when a person shows-off. Jesus however warns against this behaviour when we do good. In our flexing, we can actually lose the reward from God. Humility is required in our acts of doing good.</p>
	<p><b>6. Watch out 'subtle sin'</b></p> <p>We may understand 'subtle sin' as the things we do against God, sometimes without even realising. Being boastful and arrogant about something can often be one of those types of sin. These sins are dangerous ones for us to watch out for as they can sometimes be the most damaging.</p> <p><b><i>There may some other examples you can draw on for this in your own experience.</i></b></p>
	<p><b>7. Normalize your faith behaviour</b></p> <p>In order to continually do good with the right intent and heart, we have normalise teachings of our faith in how we live. If we are quick to celebrate ourselves but slow to humility in everyday life, this behaviour we carry over into our faith behaviour. The challenge is for us to constantly be reflecting and remaining aware of these things.</p>
	<p><b>8. Entertain an audience of One</b></p> <p>The One being God himself. If we are truly focused on doing good for goods sake, we find ourselves doing good for <i>Gods sake</i>. If Gods will is what matters most to us, we will find our desires to pat ourselves on the back will be lessened. And in the process, God will be lifted higher whilst impacting other peoples lives. This is the challenge before young Christians today.</p>

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### 9. Reflection and Prayer

You can invite thoughts and feedback following this and then draw things to a close with prayer – specifically around the things discussed in the above points.



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