



## Discussion Questions: Pastor Noe Garcia // 'Breaking Shame's Power'

### Message Recap:

This past Sunday, Passion City welcomed Pastor Noe Garcia, from Phoenix Arizona, to teach on the Christian's response to shame. Pastor Noe has a powerful testimony about Jesus' work in freeing him from shame and guilt. Like the Prodigal Son, Pastor Noe told the story of his return to the Father and some of what he has learned about how Jesus wants us to respond to Him in moments of failure. What Pastor Noe came to realize is that Jesus' primary want is for us to come to Him, to "look Him in the eye," open our hands, and admit to having sinned against Him. When we get to this place of humility, Jesus meets us with grace.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Noe shared from his own story in how shame led him to run. What is it about shame that leads people to run away?
2. What is it about shame that leads people to numb themselves?
3. Pastor Noe also shared about his frustration in not knowing why God would allow him to struggle and even suffer. When someone asks, "Where is God in my pain?," what is your answer?
4. When someone asks, "Why won't God give me a sign?," what is your answer?
5. Pastor Noe shared from a couple stories in Scripture about God's response to sinners. What is it that determines God's response to a sinner? Why are some met with punishment, and some met with grace?
6. What is repentance? How is it different from confession?
7. You will hear the story of the Prodigal Son a lot, if you spend years in the 21<sup>st</sup> century western Church. Why do you think there is such an emphasis on this story in our day in age?
8. Pastor Noe told the story of his son marking the apartment wall with sharpie. He said that there was a shift in his son's demeanor when he realized that his dad did not want to punish him anywhere close to as much as his dad wanted to hear him repent. What is it about an apology – whether from a colleague, spouse, or child - that is so satisfying?
9. Based off of Pastor Noe's message, why is it important for us to confess our sins (Both to God, and to others)?
10. What are some ways we can fight the feeling of shame when it comes?