



DIGGING DEEPER

WEEK ONE: 1 Peter 3:8-18a

This week Pastor Josh kicked off our new series *Greater Than!* His main assertion throughout his message was that people are greater than politics. He specifically posed the following question to us, “As followers of Jesus, as imitators of God, as brothers and sisters in Christ, who have been redeemed and forgiven by the love and sacrifice of Jesus—what is our response to the polarization in our country?” Throughout this series we hope all of us wrestle with this question and arrive at a response fueled by the greatness of Jesus.

DISCUSS

Icebreaker Question: Have you ever had an experience that went from normal to chaotic in the blink of an eye? What happened?

1. After reading through our key passage, how do you reconcile being like-minded with someone but disagreeing with them politically, theologically, socially, culturally, etc.?
2. What do you think it looks like to pursue peace, love righteousness, and reflect Christ in our culture?
3. Take some time and think of your story with Jesus. In what way have you perceived or experienced the following things: division or unity, indifference or love, persecution or peacemaking. Now share this with your group. How is Jesus challenging you to use your story to make a difference in one of these areas?
4. What is one way you could prioritize people or politics in this coming week?

CLOSE

As you close this evening, make sure to discuss how your group is going to serve during this group session. Fall and winter are great times to volunteer at local food banks, homeless shelters, or to make sure people’s needs are met within our community. If you are looking for different organizations to partner with in the area, contact Lauri Balbi at lbaldi@fairoaks.church

PRAY

For prayer this week, ask for a specific thing in the next 7 days that they would like prayer for. It can be major or minor, just encourage each person to share something.

THE SOAP BIBLE STUDY METHOD

SCRIPTURE

Work through the text slowly getting a picture of the entire context.

OBSERVATION

What observations do you see in the narrative or events?

APPPLICATION

How do you think this applied to people contextually and today?

PRAYER

Ask God to use what you’ve read to deepen your relationship with him.

