

Small Group Guide: Responding to Tragedy with Biblical Truth

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. We are in a spiritual war, not a cultural or political one.
2. Our primary allegiance is to the Kingdom of God.
3. Biblical values may be seen as radical by society, but we must stand firm.
4. We need to declare war on our own sin first.
5. Boldness in proclaiming the gospel is essential.
6. Suffering for Christ is to be expected and can be redemptive.
7. Loving our enemies is crucial, even when it's difficult.

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor mentioned that this tragedy felt different from others. How did you personally react to the events of this past week?
2. How can we balance being both patriots and Christians, with our primary allegiance to God's kingdom?
3. The sermon emphasized that our warfare is spiritual, not physical. How does this change our approach to addressing societal issues?
4. Discuss the concept of "declaring war on our own sin." What areas in your life need to be brought under Christ's authority?
5. The pastor said, "We cannot evangelize those we've demonized." How can we love our enemies while still standing firm in biblical truth?
6. How do you respond to Jesus' words that following Him may bring division, even within families?
7. What does it mean to "suffer well" as a Christian? Have you experienced this in your own life?
8. How can we maintain boldness in our faith without becoming combative or unloving?

Practical Applications:

1. Commit to spending more time in God's Word this week. Consider starting a Bible reading plan together as a group.
2. Identify one area of sin in your life and create an action plan to address it, with accountability from the group.
3. Practice speaking boldly about your faith this week. Share an experience with the group next time.
4. Identify someone you might consider an "enemy" and commit to praying for them daily and finding a way to show them Christ's love.
5. Memorize a Scripture verse about God's love or the gospel to help you stay grounded in truth.
6. Discuss ways your group can serve the community, demonstrating Christ's love in practical ways.

Closing Prayer

Encourage group members to continue reflecting on the sermon throughout the week and to support one another in applying its teachings.