



Sermon Discussion Guide
Here in the In-Between: Essential Mission
Sunday, June 28, 2020
Based on Pastor Jason's Sermon

Introduction

We're in a series of messages called *Here in the In-Between*. So much of life takes place in the tension between where we've come from and where we're going. To help us explore this, we are looking at the book of 1 Peter. Here, Peter wrote to Christians and encouraged them to think of themselves as "temporary residents," living in one place on earth, but really belonging to God in Heaven. In this second lesson, we learn that we can impact those around us from a place of love.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to www.journeyoffaith.com/sermons

Share Your Story

1. When meeting someone who has different beliefs, values, or way of life, what's one strategy you use to find common ground with them?
2. Think of how you felt when you were looked at as "different" in a social setting. What do you wish someone did that would have communicated acceptance and love?

Hear God's Story

1. Read 1 Peter 2:1-10. Now, focus in on 2:9-10. How can we apply Paul's teaching of the mercy we receive from God here to our everyday relationships and interactions?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:17. Here, Paul summarizes his charge to Christians. When Paul wrote this, the Roman Emperor was killing Christians. He's not saying to allow ourselves to be victims, but he's saying that we should act more like Jesus - when we're protesting, voting, donating, posting, serving, or even talking to people different than us. What does this look like?
3. As we think about what Paul has said, the heart keeps coming up like a subtheme in this letter. How can we learn to hear people's hearts beyond their words, so we can better love them from the heart level?

Create a New Story

1. Think of a person or people group that feel vulnerable, lonely, unheard, or different, and find a way to show them mercy in a practical way. Do you have any ideas right now?
2. Think of one person you personally know that you struggle to respect or love. What's one way you can show that person respect and love this week?

Further Studies: Reflection from the Early Church

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

-1 Peter 2:9-10, CSB

Andreas (563-637 AD) was the bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, and widely respected as a leader and theologian in the early Church. In one of his writings, he wrote this after reflecting on the above verse:

“When people from different races and nations are called to abandon all their differences and to take on one mind, drawing near to him by one faith and one teaching, by which the soul and the heart become one, they are one holy people.”

DISCUSS

1. According to Andreas’ reflection on 1 Peter 2:9-10, what’s the link between unity and holiness?
2. What’s the balance between “abandoning all [our] differences” for the sake of joining in God’s mission, and celebrating our individual diversity?
3. When you look at both 1 Peter 2:9-10 and Andreas’ reflection, what one thing challenges you the most in this teaching?
4. Is something being brought up in your mind while we go through this that you need to ask God for forgiveness for? Perhaps a time you treated someone contrary to this, and didn’t say sorry? Or, you treated that person well on the outside, but on the inside you were cursing them? Take a minute to analyze yourself in this regard, share it with your group only if you want to, then move into a time of prayer:
5. A. Give God praise for who He is and what we just learned about Him.
B. Then, ask God to forgive us for falling short and not embodying this teaching as well as we could toward others around us.
C. Third, pray that God helps us to internalize and then live out what we’ve been talking about: To see others as God sees them, and treat them with His heart.
D. Lastly, give God praise once again.

For Parents: Repackaging for Youth

1. For those who have young children in the home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com