



"On the Outside Lookin' In" Small Group Worksheet

Opening Question(s):

- Have you ever given much thought to this notion that we are “exiles” or “strangers” here in this life?
- What initial thoughts do you have about this concept?
- The speaker rephrased it as being “on the outside” or feeling like “I am on my own.” Can you identify where you might feel something of that nature?

Read Hebrews 11:13-16.

As you read these words, what questions or observations do you have? Read it a couple of times out loud and simply note various observations.

Consider the word “admitting” or “acknowledging” in v13. To admit something is not always easy to do. We admit that we were wrong. We admit that we failed. We admit that we didn’t understand or think of that option. There is a humility to the word. Why do you suppose it might be hard to **admit** that this is not our home, that we are aliens and strangers here? What would make it hard for you to admit this truth? What does it require of us to admit this truth? (hint: it means we long for a place to feel at home, to be able to rest without fear, to not fear being exposed or caught off guard or condemned/judged)

Note for leader: you could add to the discussion here that the first two chapters of the Bible and the last two are quite similar in imagery. We were built for the garden and are headed to the garden-city. But we live in-between those two now and thus, the longing for home.

Wonder aloud at how we might, in this world, try to make this place our home. What are some

of the ways we do this individually? (some of these ways appear perfectly legitimate, e.g.— buying a newer, bigger home; getting more money in the bank; eating too much; shopping or binging in various ways. Then there are illegitimate means such as pornography, an affair, etc)

Big Question: Why do you suppose this idea of admitting we are outsiders (exiles) in this world is important to our faith?

Notice how there is something about acknowledging this everyday, ongoing reality that pleases God, that identifies us as one of his people (v16).

Read Philippians 3:17-21

What is the Apostle Paul saying defines a person as an “enemy of the cross of Christ?” Consider and ponder aloud the ideas of our minds being on earth things in contrast to seeing our citizenship as being in heaven vv19-20.