

eGroup Discussion Guide

September 27, 2020

PRAY

Begin your time together with an opening prayer. Choose someone from the group to pray for your time together. Acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit, who serves as our Teacher.

OBSERVE

Read your selected passage out loud as a group. While the group reads, take note of any details, words, or phrases that stand out to you. Use the space provided on the side to write down your observations.

SELECTED PASSAGES

Acts 15:19: “19 “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.”

Matthew 11:28-29: 28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Acts 15, a turning point debate occurs amongst the church leaders in Jerusalem. In verse 19, James, the Jerusalem church leader, decrees, "it is my judgment, there fore that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God." What do you think that decree meant to the Jewish Christians at the time? What do you think it meant to the Gentile Christians? How would this decree have reshaped the way the church moved forward?
2. How would you define a barrier to faith? What barriers do you see that Emmanuel puts up that make it hard for people to discover the real Jesus in our community?
3. How do we, together, take down those barriers? What would Emmanuel look like if we began to remove barriers for non-Christians? How committed are we to inviting non-Christians into our church community? What holds us back from doing this more?
4. It's evident from Matthew 11:28 that Jesus desires, "all you who are weary and burdened, and I (Jesus) will give you rest." How do we find rest for ourselves? How do we help other people find rest in Jesus? How does that look practically? What kinds of heavy burdens do people place on themselves naturally?
5. We live in a deeply divided culture. Our divisions make it difficult for people to find belonging. Yet, at the same time, finding belonging is one of our most fundamental needs. How do we, as Christians, help people feel belonging in our church community? How do we draw closer to people different than ourselves? What does it look like to be an inviting culture?

MAIN IDEA

In one to three sentences, summarize your main take-away from this lesson. You can write it down in the space provided or verbalize it to the group. Include anything that you would like to put into practice this week as an application.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Take time to pray as a group. Record any prayer requests in the space below.

LOOKING FORWARD

Take a moment to plan the location and time of your next gathering. Will anyone need to prepare anything before, like a snack or refreshments? This is a good time to ask if anyone would be open to lead the next eGroup time or even just a portion of it, like prayer.