



FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

Small Group Guide: For the Whole World - Part 3

ICEBREAKER

Share a time when someone made you feel truly valued and seen. What did they do, and how did it impact you?

SERMON SUMMARY

Jesus came to elevate the dignity of the individual in a culture where most people were viewed as property or commodities. Through his teaching, interactions, and ultimately his death, Jesus demonstrated that everyone matters because everyone is someone God loves and someone for whom Christ died. This truth is "self-evident" (obvious when we pause to think about it) but not "natural" (not our default response). As Christians, we're called to fight against what's natural and embrace what's self-evident: treating all people with the dignity Jesus modeled.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Understanding the Message

1. What does it mean that something can be "self-evident but not natural"? Can you think of other examples beyond those mentioned in the sermon (exercise, healthy eating, studying)?
2. How was Jesus' culture different from ours regarding the value of individuals? What groups were particularly devalued in first-century Palestine?
3. Review the examples of how Jesus elevated people's dignity through his teaching and interactions. Which story resonates most with you and why?



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Personal Reflection

- 4. The sermon mentioned that discrimination often happens based on things people can't control. Have you ever experienced being judged or devalued for something outside your control? How did it affect you?**
- 5. Be honest: Is there a group of people you struggle to see with Jesus' eyes? (This could be based on politics, economics, education, appearance, lifestyle, etc.) What do you think is at the root of that struggle?**
- 6. The sermon stated: "When people use the words of God to hurt people bearing the image of God, Jesus was quick to remind them they were on the wrong side of God." Have you witnessed or participated in using faith to justify treating others poorly?**

Application

- 7. Jesus lived "without labels" and "without adjectives." What labels or adjectives do you tend to put on people? How do those labels limit how you see and treat them?**
- 8. "Christians should be famous for how we treat other people." How do you think Christians are currently perceived in our culture? What would need to change for us to be known primarily for how we elevate others?**
- 9. The sermon challenged us: "If you're a Christian, you can't live with an 'I'm better because of' attitude toward anybody." What "I'm better because of" attitudes might you need to repent of?**

HOMEWORK CHALLENGE

Read one of the four Gospels this week (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) with this specific question in mind:

"Where do I catch Jesus elevating the dignity of the individual?"



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ACTION STEPS

Choose at least one of the following to practice this week:

REPENT

Get on your knees before God and ask Him to reveal any prejudice, discrimination, or "I'm better than" attitudes in your heart. Confess them specifically and ask God to replace them with His love.

REPAIR

If the Holy Spirit brings someone to mind that you've hurt or treated with less dignity than they deserve, reach out to them. Apologize. Make it right. Even if nothing was said aloud, they likely felt it.

REDIRECT

Intentionally spend time with or serve someone different from you this week—someone you might normally overlook, avoid, or judge. Ask God to help you see them as He sees them.

REFLECT

Before you speak about or interact with someone this week, pause and ask: "How would Jesus treat this person?" Let that guide your words and actions.
