

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

ALL LIVES MATTER

Scripture: Genesis 1:26; John 13:35

Pastor Miles McPherson – June 21, 2015

In light of all the events occurring in our nation like the Carolina church tragedy last week and other hateful acts; today's message was very timely. We understand, the government can't pass any legislation when issues are a matter of the heart.

Pastor Miles reminded us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14) by our Father, who is the greatest of artists, specializing in masterpieces. Thank you Abba-Father!

MEMORY VERSES

"Above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins"

I Peter 4:8

DISCUSSION STARTERS

Discuss a time when you were in a class, on a sports team, in a work group, or etc. where you may have been one of a few or the only person who "looked like you." Describe the experience and outcome of being in a setting that was not your preferred setting. What were your initial feeling and thoughts? Were you sincerely welcomed in group? Did you initiate any connection/relationship? What new perspectives did you learn?

Share an experience that you felt was racially motivated against you or you were harmed in some way? How did you respond or react? What was the outcome? How does forgiveness come into play?

Remember hate will not prevail because God will lift up a standard against it; and what is meant for harm God can turn for good. Ref: Is 59:19 and Gen 50:20.

STUDY QUESTIONS

READ the Scriptures from Sunday's Sermon:

I Timothy 2:1-4; 2:1-7; II Samuel 14:13-14; Psalm 139:14; Genesis 1:26

1. What are we encouraged to do for all men? How would the action in v1 impact those in leadership or authority (ref v2)? What is the benefit or outcome of praying, interceding, giving thanks, or supplicating for all men? What is God's desire (v4)?

2. How do you think praying for others in the way prescribed in I Timothy would impact the body of Christ and our communities?



3. II Samuel speaks to the fact that God does not punish by banishing (disregarding) others; rather He gives life. As we learned in the sermon, we all need connection and love. In modern terms, what are some things others could do that would be appear as punishment or banishment to individuals or groups? Can banishing behavior be subtle? Why or why not?

4. When was the last time you praised God for his marvelous work in creating you (Psalm 139)? Can you recall a time when someone else or someone from a different race or culture affirmed God's hand in/on your life? Describe the experience or impact on you? Where you encouraged in your walk?

5. How does reading Gen 1:26 change your thoughts about people who are not saved, people who are not the same race or nationality as you, people who do not have the same education background or skill level as you? How can the body of Christ be examples of God's unconditional love and celebrate the uniqueness of who we are with different gifts and talents?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

1. Discuss the various hate acts that have occurred in recent and pray for the families and communities impacted. Pray for group members who have been impacted by hate or bias.
2. Discuss/Pray in groups about the body of Christ increasing our love of others beyond where we currently do. (This was Pastor Miles's challenge to us from the sermon).

TAKE IT HOME!

1. In Sunday service, Pastor Miles challenged us to not leave the church campus without speaking, getting the name, and offering prayer to someone we did not know or "looked like we do". Likewise, this week challenge yourself to engage with someone out of your comfort zone.

2. Read Romans 8:14-17, Matthew 18:2-5 and Psalm 92:5

Join artist Jonathan David Helser in worship of the Father as he sings the song "Abba".

Abba is the intimate and endearing Aramaic expression of Father. 10 minute Worship video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4ZH11FkbbY>

More Resources

John Piper's Testimony growing up in the South.

<https://www.rightnow.org/Content/Series/641#1>

