

Simply Walk With Jesus
Pastor Dave Patterson
6-7-2020

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

Only the grace of God poured out on our hearts can heal this nation.

[Ephesians 4:2-4, NLT]

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴ For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

The greatest testimony to a hurting, broken world is unity in the Body of Christ.

[Joshua 5:13-15]

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

14 “Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?”

15 The commander of the LORD’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

[Matthew 24: 12-13]

There will be such an increase of sin and lawlessness that those whose hearts once burned with passion for God and others will grow cold. ¹³ But keep your hope to the end and you will experience life and deliverance.

<p>Prejudice = to pre-judge before knowing the person, the facts or the situation</p>
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We all have the propensity toward prejudice because of our fallen nature. In order to drop our prejudice, we have to learn some things about people who are not like us.

Miles McPherson—*The Third Option*

<https://www.sdrock.com/messages/2020-05-31/>

Christine Caine & Dr. Anita Phillips—*Body Language: A*

Conversation on Race and Restoration in the Body of Christ

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=W1P6AXjXnXc>

Carl Lentz and T.D. Jakes—*A Discussion on Racism*

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=HYku4vlwnTQ>

Racism = bias against another ethnicity that starts with distrust and can evolve into hatred. Racism manifest itself in policies and laws that are written to exclude a people or persons on the basis of their color, ethnic background or creed.

Bigotry = intolerance for those who hold different ideas and opinions. Bigotry is based on the belief that my opinion is superior

God wants us to be a church where everyone has a chance to reach their full potential.

Only repentance will cure bigotry.

Jesus will walk with anyone who will walk with Him.

[Matthew 8:5-7]

When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer (a Centurion) came and pleaded with him, “Lord, my young servant lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain.”

⁷Jesus said, “I will come and heal him.”

Jesus walked across lines. He did not judge anyone the Samaritan or the Centurian. His criticism came to the religious.

- 1. Listen and learn about someone else’s journey (someone on the other side of the line).**
- 2. Prepare to walk with Jesus by wearing the same outfit that he wears.**

[Colossians 3:12, TPT]

You are always and dearly loved by God! So robe yourself with virtues of God, since you have been divinely chosen to be holy.

Be merciful as you endeavor to understand others, and be compassionate, showing kindness toward all. Be gentle and humble, unoffendable in your patience with others.

[Matthew 11:29, NLT]

Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

3. Guard unity

[Ephesians 4:3, NLT]

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

(Endeavor = *spoudazō* / to exert oneself, to be diligent and labor in order to achieve)

[1 Corinthians 1:10, NLT]

I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

HOW DO WE WALK WITH JESUS THROUGH IT ALL?

- Don't jump to any conclusions about where others are standing.
- Be humble and patient with where people are in all of this.
- Pray before you post.

- Have some new conversations.
- Listen well.
- Pray for unity.
- Walk and talk with Jesus.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Take a posture of humility and pray for unity in your spheres of influence, in our nation, and in the Body of Christ.
2. Intentionally listen with love to someone with a different perspective.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What was a situation when you had felt indecision about choosing a side? If there was any pressure, from where was it coming?
2. Who was someone with whom you thought you would have trouble relating, only to find some affinity and common ground?
3. What does humility look like?
4. Where are some places where you have authority, and how did you get it?
5. How does Joshua 5 show us how to stand and walk with Jesus through times of tension?
6. What are the differences between prejudice, racism, and bigotry?
7. What changes are made when we listen, change our outfits, and guard the unity? How has hearing someone else's pain helped you displace prejudice?
8. Where do you think the church is in the midst of anger and confusion in our nation?
9. Of the "ways to walk with Jesus through it all," which ones challenge you?