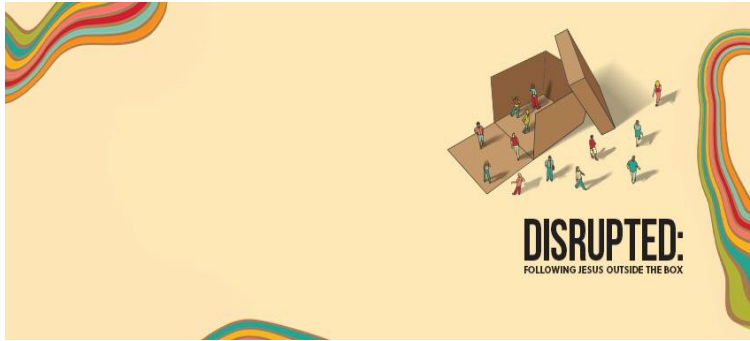




SERMON STUDY GUIDE
For the sermon preached on
10/04/2020:
“Citizens of the Kingdom”
Luke 20:20-26

How to use the Study Guide During Virtual Online Group Meetings

Group life is even more critical during this incredible season. Over and over, group leaders are reporting that suddenly there is a new hunger to connect, share, pray, and meditate on Scripture together, and so we are making these guides available weekly and suggesting a new format during this season.

As you know, our Group Life’s vision is to “practice the way of Jesus.” And while Jesus never had to lead a Torah study over Zoom, he was strategic in his teaching ministry, and we want to be as well.

There are a number of differences between meeting in person and meeting online, ranging from the obvious to the subtle. One is, given our attention spans for online meetings, we want to encourage you to limit the length of your call between 45-60 minutes and we are calling this “Check-In Plus One.” Meaning, spend a few minutes checking in with your group and see if there are any new needs with them (or even amongst their neighbors). The “One” is to spend time in study. As our virtual season continues, our desire for meaningful content and interaction will grow. Given our new format, the study guides based on Sunday’s Sermon will be designed to be more application based (as opposed to unpacking the text with the Inductive Bible Study method). You might consider sharing the passage beforehand with your group in hopes that they might spend more time with the Scripture before the gathering.

As always, we are so grateful for you, your gifting, your servant leadership, and all that you do in practicing the way of Jesus in community.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tim Ghali and Pastor Rachel Keeler on behalf of the Group Life Team

For the Leader: “Check-In Plus One”

Welcome everyone to the Zoom call and outline the goal of this call being 45 minutes. Spend 15-20 minutes checking in with one another, then move into a time of prayer, and then spend some time discussing the application of the Scripture passage.

A “Check-in” question might be, “How are you doing, and is there anything new that has arisen in your life or in your neighborhood that we can pray about?”

This fall, we've been following an upward spiral that can lead us from Disruption to Discovery. This week, we're pausing at the Divine Encounter phase, in order to invite God to speak into this politically disruptive season we're living in. Pastor Bryan's message is called "Citizens of the Kingdom," and it comes out of Luke 20:20-26.

Let's try something a little different today. These conversations can be challenging, and we have to enter into them assuming that members of our group don't all hold the same political views. Let's pause *before* we begin our discussion to invite the Holy Spirit into our hearts and our conversations. May the Spirit of the Living God fall on each one of us, reminding us who we are as brothers and sisters in the Lord, reminding us to treat one another with love, and reminding us that all our hope is found in Jesus...

Q – Though the political divisions of our time might feel unprecedented, Jesus's time was politically divided as well. Seizing on those divisions, some religious leaders set a trap, trying to get Jesus to take a position that would get him in trouble with the authorities. Looking at both Luke 10:24 ("Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription is on it?") and Genesis 1:26 ("Let us make mankind in our image"), Pastor Bryan concludes: "Politics can't define us when we remember who we are." We're citizens of two kingdoms, and we owe something to both.

- What does being a citizen of God's Kingdom mean to you, and how does that shape the way you understand your earthly citizenship? How should our "dual citizenship" impact the ways we participate in civic life?
- Christians often speak about how their faith influences their views on political *issues*. But how does our identity as God's image-bearers and Christ followers shape the way we approach and participate in political *conversations*?

Q – The second lesson in the sermon was that "Politics can't divide us when we remember how to treat each other." Think about a friend, relative, neighbor, or co-worker who has different political views than you do.

- How might God be inviting you to love that person more fully? What are some of the ways that Christians with different political views can love one another well?
- Or if you don't have any friends, relatives, or co-workers with different political views than you do, how might God be challenging you to stretch yourself in this season?

Q – Drawing on Philippians 3:20 ("But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ"), Pastor Bryan shared the final lesson in this week's message: "Politics can't distract us when we remember where our hope is found."

- Are there any ways in which the political divisions in our country tend to distract you from something that needs more attention in your life or in your spirit? What are some areas of your life in which you need to be reminded that your hope and identity are grounded in Jesus Christ?

As we conclude, let's pray that the Lord will help us to remember who we are and whose we are, and help us to love our neighbors well...