

The Politics of Jesus (5 of 7) Small Group Discussion Questions

SUNDAY WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic COVID-19 has forced us to adjust and adapt how we do church and stay connected to one another as a congregation. We're not closed as a church, we're just doing church differently! So, please stay connected to the body at Grantham Church. Join our congregation for worship online at 10:30 am each Sunday morning. Follow the worship liturgy and watch our [Vimeo](#) videos at granthamchurch.org/liturgy.

As usual, the sermons will be posted to the [recent sermons page](#) on our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for engaging with us online!

Sunday, October 25th 2020



Sermon Title: Might From the Margins

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 1:1-2; 2:18-25; 4:1-19

Sermon Focus: If we want to see Jesus, we don't look to the powerful, we look to the powerless. The first Christians were among the powerless. Who are the powerless today? It's time to listen and learn from those in the margins of American Empire. Listen as guest speaker Dennis Edwards (North Park Theological Seminary) shares how marginalized people are the best teachers of what it means to be followers of Christ.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call! Use the following questions to guide your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David mentioned in his introduction that Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian and pastor, was moved by his experience of the plight and rapturous passion of black Christians in America (Harlem) that he decided to return to Nazi Germany and be an ally for the Jews. Tell of a time you have been challenged and inspired by the enduring faith of the marginalized and oppressed.
2. Dennis Edwards began by talking about how many Christians today have fused their faith together with American ideals and politics. And he said that people on the margins in America are challenging our worldview and perspectives. How have you seen this today? What ways are the marginalized challenging us.
3. Read 1 Peter 2:18-25 together. Consider how the Apostle Peter encourages the marginalized early believers, particularly slaves, to be *patient* in their suffering. It isn't to silence the oppressed and make them more submissive. Instead, as Dennis said, it's because when we do so we're following the example of Jesus. Think of some examples of this in modern times. Who comes to mind?
4. Dennis said the following: "Generally speaking, marginalized believers are the best teachers of what it means to be followers of Christ." Furthermore, he said we don't see the way of Jesus most clearly through the powerful and privileged. What do you think about this? What can the powerless teach us? Give examples.
5. Dennis said we need to listen and learn from the marginalized. He shares examples of what it's like to be black and be treated differently. What ways do you see the church listening and responding in helpful ways? What ways do you see people not listening and refusing to empathize with minorities?
6. Dennis said, "How we live as God's people day after day is more important than winning arguments or even electing our favorite candidates. We want God's Kingdom to come, God's will to be done on earth, which impacts how we live right now." How do you think we have not lived as God's people "day after day"? If our daily choices are important and more impactful than our vote for president every four years, what choices might we be making in our homes, churches, and communities that hurt us and our neighbors in the long run?
7. Close in prayer as a group. Ask God to help you and our church listen and learn from the marginalized. Invite the Spirit to use Grantham to be the difference.