November 1st
Kingdom Living (In Divisive Times)
Session 1: Forging The Kingdom

IN DIVISIVE TIMES

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

Notes and Discussion Questions

This week launches our series about what it could look like to be a follower of Jesus in our polarized and polarizing society. The goal of this series is to learn how to engage in hard conversations in the spirit and style of Jesus; we are developing the strength and perspective needed to engage with others (believers included!) we might have disagreements with.

This series helps us move toward the unity—but not uniformity—that Jesus believed was essential for the mission of His church (see John 17).

Notes:

1. Jesus lived in divided times.

***Video: Segment of "The Big Shift" by The After Party

2. Jesus talked with everybody.

3. Jesus forged a new group that changed our world. It was diverse on purpose.

4. How did Jesus navigate life in divided times?

5. Jesus' followers stayed connected to Him (and each other) through the Spirit, prayer, and a commitment to love each other like family.

(Turn over for discussion questions)

Questions:
Jesus' original disciples were chosen by Him to be from diverse backgrounds and perspectives—on purpose. Why is a diverse group more powerful/effective than a homogenous one?
Jesus understood that a tax-collector and zealot would disagree (or even hate each other). What would have to happen for these two in particular to stay in Jesus' group together?
Jesus engaged people from every level and group and party of his society. What can we learn from His example?
Can you think of examples of when Jesus took time to pray about an important decision or conversation?
Is there anyone in your circle of friends/relatives/acquaintances with whom it is hard to get along? What are some examples from the Gospels that might show you how Jesus would respond/engage with this

Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus' original disciples were chosen by Him to be from diverse backgrounds and perspectives—on purpose. Why is a diverse group more powerful/effective than a homogenous one?

2. Jesus understood that a tax-collector and zealot would disagree (or even hate each other). What would have to happen for these two in particular to stay in Jesus' group together?

3. Jesus engaged people from every level and group and party of his society. What can we learn from His example?

4. Can you think of examples of when Jesus took time to pray about an important decision or conversation?

5. Is there anyone in your circle of friends/relatives/acquaintances with whom it is hard to get along? What are some examples from the Gospels that might show you how Jesus would respond/engage with this person?

6. What can help us love those with whom we disagree?

7. What practical steps can we take to invest in unity among the believers here in St. Cloud?

Homework Assignment: Read Covenant Resource Papers Freedom, unity, and Responsibility in Covenant Life and Mission

SCAN and scroll to the bottom:



Covenant Resource Papers

OR

Google: "Covenant Resource Papers Freedom, unity, and Responsibility in Covenant Life and Mission"

OR

Pickup a printed copy at the Welcome Desk