

Divided We Stand: Right Now Media Study

July 21 - July 27, 2024

Life Group Leaders: For the Kingdom Come Message Series, we are going to do a RightNow Media (RNM) Study titled, Divided We Stand. Please click here to watch a special message from Pastor Patrick Eagan. If you or your Life Group members need access to RNM, text CELEBRATIONOLA to 49775.

Please keep Life Groups to 60-90 minutes. If the discussion is going well, then you can dismiss the group and allow those that would like to continue talking to stay, if possible.

Welcome - Read the Life Group Goals and ONE Guideline.

- **Pray:** Who wants to volunteer?
  - **Icebreaker**:
    - What might a person close to you say is one of your strengths?
  - You could also ask:
    - What stood out to you this week, either from our conversation last time or the Digging Deeper material?
    - Last week we talked about practical, tangible ways that we could step into love in the midst of division. How did that play out this week?
- **Watch**:
  - Watch Session 2 of Divided We Stand: Right Now Media Study (16 minutes) - https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/763581?session=763583
- **Reflect**: Have someone read the following passage of Jesus praying out loud:
  - John 13:3-5 (NIV) Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.
  - *Then, spend one minute in silence individually as you pray this prayer:* Jesus, you were perfectly humble even though you were God, and you were completely secure in your identity. Where are you inviting me to experience more humility? Where are you inviting me to trust you with my identity?
- **Discuss**: What does this mean to me?
  - LEADER choose a few questions that jump out to you from the list below and process them as a group. Do your best to not give the answer you think you're supposed to—try to be as authentic and real as you can. Remember the ground rules as you move into discussion:
    - Ground Rules:
      - Give each other grace.
      - Choose to value people more than issues.
      - Seek understanding, not agreement.
  - Questions:
    - What stood out to you from the video discussion?

        - When you think of having a more humble posture in these tense issues, what emotions surface?
        - How difficult is it for you to admit that you contribute to the problem of division?
        - We all have blindspots and biases, and these require others to help us see what we're missing. Who has permission to do that in your life?
        - What are some biases or stereotypes that you might have? Where did you learn those?
        - What biases and blindspots might this group have? Whose perspective is missing?
        - How can we continue to remember our true identity in Christ when we become afraid?
- **Apply**: What faith step is God inviting me to take? (**LEADER**: If you do Breakout Groups, this is the time to "Break-out")
    - Talking about humility and identity is one thing, but living it out in our daily lives is a whole other challenge! Thankfully, Jesus sustains and guides us into freedom, but that doesn't mean that the road isn't rocky sometimes.
    - Move your group discussion toward how we can start living out of humility and our true identity by asking the following questions:
        - How would your life look different if you trusted who God says you are instead of who you say you are?
        - Where is God inviting you to be humbly curious about how you contribute to division? How might you lean into that discomfort this week?

- **Digging Deeper**
    - In this coming week's Digging Deeper 2 material, we're going to explore how this humble curiosity overflows to other people, particularly to people who are different from us.
        - What is one practical, tangible way that you can be humbly curious with yourself this week?
        - <u>Ideas to get you started:</u>
            - Invite someone you trust to help you explore your biases and blindspots (remember, we all have them). This should be someone who holds a different perspective than you in at least one area.
            - Ask this humble question to someone important to you, "How am I affecting you?" Assure them that they won't pay the price for being honest (and make sure you hold that promise). Listen with the intent of understanding what blindspots you might have.
            - Identify an area where you haven't listened to understand another's point of view, either because you wanted to make your point or because you avoided the conversation. Spend some time being curious about why you didn't listen to understand. What were you afraid of?
            - If there has been a relationship or situation where you have contributed to division, either by avoiding hard conversations or using them to argue, contact someone you affected and sincerely apologize for your part—even if they hurt you, too. Humbly own your part of the conflict.
            - Anything else comes to mind? Be creative, but practical. Try to make it an actionable step in order to help integrate your actions with your beliefs.
        - <u>How I'm going to live it out:</u>
            - How can the group or one member in the group come alongside you in this?

- **Pray** to close out this time together.

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