

Divided We Stand: Right Now Media Study

July 28 - August 3, 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**:
    - When was the last time someone seemed genuinely curious about you, your views, or your experiences? How did that feel?
  - You could also ask:
    - Last week we talked about practical, tangible ways that we could be humbly curious with ourselves. How did that play out this past week? If you didn't take the step you chose last week, what do you think held you back?
    - What stood out to you this week, either from our conversation last time or the Digging Deeper material?
- **Watch**:
  - Watch Session 3 of Divided We Stand: Right Now Media Study (14 minutes) - https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/763581?session=763584
- **Reflect**: Have someone read the following passage of Jesus praying out loud:
  - John 13:34-35 (NIV) "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
  - *Then, spend one minute in silence individually as you pray this prayer:* Lord, teach me what it means to be known by the way I love others. Where are you inviting me to love more like you?
- **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 have you experienced someone assuming either what you think or why you think it? How did that feel?
        - How do humility and identity set the foundation for curious conversations?
        - Why might we want people to think, act, or believe the same as us?
        - What emotions come up when you think about asking someone on the other side of an issue to help you understand their perspective?
        - What conversations have you been avoiding and why?
- **Practice**: What faith step is God inviting me to take? (**LEADER**: If you do Breakout Groups, this is the time to "Break-out")
        - Being humbly curious with ourselves can be challenging enough, but stepping out and being curious about other people can feel downright terrifying. This is a place where rooting ourselves firmly in our identity in Christ is deeply necessary, for out of that flows the courage and peace we need to be bridge-builders and reconcilers. Jesus calls us to a life of love lived out. This includes us risking hard conversations for the sake of others. Put another way, he calls us to have some skin in the game.
        - Practice having some curious conversations right here in your group. Here are two ways you could do this:
            - Pair off with individuals who aren't as familiar with each other. Set a timer for fifteen minutes, and practice asking curious questions about a more sensitive topic to try to better understand each other. Remember what Tyler said about honoring and holding space for stories—this is an investment in a relationship, not a checklist!
            - Have two people volunteer who have different opinions about something (remember, opinions are held more loosely than convictions or beliefs, so they're a good place to start). Then, practice having a curious conversation, trying to understand the other person's view on that subject. The group can help if they get stuck. Then, choose two others to practice.

- **Digging Deeper**
    - In this coming week's Digging Deeper 3 material, we're going to explore how this humble curiosity overflows to other people, particularly to people who are different from us.
        - This week we encourage you to let this overflow into your life outside the group. Choose one person that you can practice a curious conversation with in the next week.
            - Who I am going to seek greater understanding with?
            - How can the group encourage each other to take this courageous step?

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

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