

Divided We Stand: Right Now Media Study

August 4 - 10, 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 is something that has stood out to you personally over the past four weeks?
    - Check-in questions:
        - What came up for you over the past week, either from our meeting together or from your Digging Deeper reading?
        - Last week we chose individuals we wanted to have a curious conversation with. How did that go?
- **Watch**:
    - Watch Session 4 of *Divided We Stand*: Right Now Media Study (15 minutes) - https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/763581?session=763585
- **Reflect**: Read the following passage out loud:
    - Isaiah 58:6-12 (NIV) “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.”
    - *Spend five minutes in silence individually reflecting on this passage.*
- **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 in the video discussion?
    - How does it change your posture when you remember that the person you most disagree with was made in the image of God?
    - Jennifer and Juni shared stories of people speaking words of value to someone vulnerable. Has someone ever done this for you? Who might you do this for?
    - Where in your life do you pass by someone in need of justice like the priest and Levite in the parable of the Good Samaritan?
    - Tommy shared that compassion isn't just service to but suffering with others. What fears come up for you with that?
    - What is a barrier or fear that prevents you from participating in justice?
    - What would it look like to stretch yourself to serve and care for someone in a sacrificial way that costs you?

- **Apply**: What faith step is God inviting me to take? (**LEADER**: If you do Breakout Groups, this is the time to "Break-out")
    - Long ago, humans broke things in this world, deciding some people were more valuable than others. God has been working to set it right ever since, and he is inviting us to join him in this incredible work. This usually starts in our micro worlds with loving the people around us sacrificially and seeking to use whatever resources we have been blessed with to bless others. **How can you participate in God's restorative justice this week?** Talk about it practically and tangibly. Here are some ideas to get you started:
        - Join an organization that provides mentorship to low-income teens.
        - Offer to deliver groceries or provide yard maintenance to elderly neighbors.
        - Volunteer with local organizations that help refugees or immigrants get settled in your area.
        - Offer to babysit for single-parent households.
        - Get involved in a community garden.
        - Participate in community work days or organize one yourself!
        - Anything else come to mind? Every situation is different and may require different steps.

    - How I'm going to live it out:
        - What could this group do together to lift up others and participate in restorative justice?

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

If you or your Life Group members need access to RNM, text CELEBRATIONOLA to 49775.

