

Where's the Love

Small Group Questions: Part 5: The Third Option

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Read

Joshua 5:13–15; Matthew 22:37–40; and 1 John 4:20

Reflect

Outside of Jericho, Joshua looks up to see a man standing opposite him, sword drawn. Joshua asks, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" But the man says "no," to both. He is the commander of the Lord's army. What does this tell us about the sides we choose? Why are we letting our culture tell us we have to choose...that we have only two options?

Guest pastor, Miles McPherson highlights how we too often see people, and gives us a third option:

1. Honor the presence of the image of God in everyone you see.
 - a. How willing are you to be united as God intended? What holds you back from trying harder?
2. In-group/out-groups
 - a. What would you say are your in-groups? Why do we tend to stick with just our in-groups?
 - b. What labels have you put on people in your out-groups?
3. In-group bias
 - a. How and why are you lacking a neutral perspective?
 - b. From the sermon notes sheet, circle three of your in-group biases and discuss them.
 - c. In what ways can you be racially offensive, yet not be a racist?
 - d. How do three types of racism: institutional, internalized, and personally mediated, differ and yet coincide?
4. Out-group discrimination
 - a. How might you be discriminating against your out-groups? How can you better love people?
 - b. Are you going out of your way to meet and understand people who are not in your in-group?

Third Option

1. Acknowledge your blind spots.
 - a. What is the difference between your intent and your impact?
2. Rename me as your "brother/sister."
 - a. Try to catch yourself when you use "us and them, those people." How often does it happen?
3. Give in-group love to your out-groups.
 - a. What can you do this week to show love to your out-groups?
4. Acknowledge your brothers' and sisters' color.
 - a. Why is it important to acknowledge color?
5. Give your heart to those not like you.
 - a. When have you asked about someone's pain and dreams? How does it change your assumptions and perspective?
6. View every conversation as a race conversation.

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?