



Session 1

Big Idea:

The world will know Jesus is real by the way we love other followers of Jesus.

GROUP OPENER

Share a time when you were shocked to find someone you expected to disagree with you on the same side of something. What stood out to you about that situation?

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Read John 17:13-25 Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What are some significant observations you have about this text? What stood out? What didn't you like? What was confusing?
- What does this passage teach us about God? How does it change how I see God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity/ourselves? How would it change how I treat others?
- What does this passage teach us about obedience? How should it affect the way I live?

June 9 WEEKEND

ACTION STEPS

I will statement...

- Based on what God is teaching in this passage, what should I do? Reflect for a minute or two and develop an action statement. Put it in the form, "I Will _____". Make it concrete, simple, and achievable. Share your "I Will" statement with the group.

As a Group

It seems natural for people to gravitate to people like themselves, call it tribalism, clicks, or our need to fit in and belong. This characteristic often creates factions, and separate groups and makes unity difficult. A simple example can be sports teams or high school friend groups.

Discuss examples where you have seen this tendency make progress in a group difficult.

After the death and resurrection of Jesus, one of the things that stood out about his followers in the following centuries was their unity. People from different backgrounds, races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic statuses followed Jesus together.

Unity is not conformity. Conformity can destroy the unique God-given differences people have. It can also help to shape us to healthy patterns. The example we see from the early church is high unity around the mission of Jesus. (See Matthew 28:18-20) The mission was to make disciples or followers of Jesus.

Discuss how our unity and differences can help contribute to the great commission given by Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20.

On Your Own

Do you have any broken fellowship with other Jesus' followers? Pray through and ask for wisdom on any ways you can move toward reconciliation and unity with them.