

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Agents of Reconciliation

Isaiah 1:13-17

Week of June 7, 2020

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

We took a break from the series called “Tremors” to focus on the topic of racism. Our country is exploding with racial tension and we must understand our role in this as Christians. We looked at the believer’s responsibility to the oppressed as described in *Isaiah 1:13-17*. Then we found practical guidance through the example and teaching of Jesus.

Kicking it off: As the quarantine is lifting, what is a renewed opportunity you are looking forward to?

Discussion:

1. If you had been on the sidewalk witnessing the killing of George Floyd, what would you have done?
2. Reread God’s rebuke as found in *Isaiah 1:13-16* “I cannot bear your worthless assemblies. Your festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me. I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes; when you offer prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of blood! Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight. Stop doing wrong.”

Why does God have such a strong aversion to their worship services?

3. Jeff made the case that “bloody hands” were a picture of oppression. What is oppression? Why does oppression bother God so much?
4. Reread *Isaiah 1:17* “Learn to do right. Seek justice. Defend the oppressed.”

How can we “defend the oppressed?”

5. Reread *Luke 10:33* But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

We have emotional responsibility. We need to feel the appropriate emotion when we witness acts of racism and oppression. How would you guide a believer who wants to feel godly sorrow for the suffering of African American brothers and sisters?

6. Reread *John 4:9* The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans)

What aspects of Jesus’s interaction with the woman at the well can we imitate?

7. How can there be profound healing of racial tensions in our country over the next 50 years?

Wrapping It Up: Pray for radical healing of the racial tension that is being displayed these days.