



LIFE INTERRUPTED

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 7 – UNNECESSARY

UNFORTUNATE TRUTH

It is easy to _____ that which doesn't directly _____ you

COMMUNICATION: WHAT HAS GOD SAID?

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

– Genesis 1:26-27 (NIV)

²⁹"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

³²"Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

³⁴When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

– Mark 12:29-34 (NIV)

BIG IDEA

You cannot _____ love God if you do not _____ love those whom God _____ loves

APPLICATION: WHAT MUST I DO?

- _____ everyone as _____ - _____ of our Creator
- Actively _____ for _____
- Refuse the _____ to see race through a _____
- Ask God to reveal any _____ or _____ that you may be harboring

²³Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

– Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV)

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Why is it easy to disregard that which doesn't directly impact you?
2. How does racism affect everyone?
3. How does racism devalue people who are made in God's image?
4. What would change in your life if you saw everyone as being an image-bearer of our Creator?
5. Why do so many people sit idly by instead of advocating for justice?
6. Why do race issues often devolve into political arguments?
7. Why is silence on this issue not an option for believers in Jesus?
8. How can building relationships with people from a different race help you better understand the issues that matter most to them?
9. Have you ever experienced a change in your perspective because of a relationship you had with someone who was from a different race than you? Discuss.
10. What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?
11. Who does Jesus say is your neighbor?
12. What would happen if you embraced the call to radically love your neighbors?
13. What would change in your life if you embraced the reconciliation as part of your responsibility as a follower of Jesus?
14. How would you see people of other races differently if you got to know them in a personal way?
15. How might you grow to better reflect Jesus by building relationships with and seeking to understand people who are different from you?
16. What should you do if God reveals blatant or hidden racial prejudice or animosity in your life?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help me to see everyone I encounter as someone made uniquely in your image. Grant me the ability to love, honor, and respect people who are different from me, and help me to embrace the creativity that you have expressed through the different races, nations, tribes, and tongues that make up the world you have made. Shape me by the truth of your Gospel above all, so that I may be empowered to radically love you by radically loving those whom you radically love. In Jesus' name, amen.