

ICEBREAKER & OPENING THOUGHT

Help the group to evaluate the culture we are currently living in. Other relationships to explore: parent/child, roommates, spouses, siblings, classmates, or Facebook.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

In Rabbinic literature, “salt” is often used to refer to “wisdom”. Scholars assert that the language Paul uses implies something that is not dull or flat but is interesting and well chosen, not dissimilar to what salt does for our food. It’s not about being witty, but instead, thinking about the flavor of our conversations. Saltiness is not about having the right comeback but about bringing the flavor of God, love, grace, dignity, wholeness, into our conversations.

An ambassador is a stranger on foreign land. Their life is spent among people who usually speak a different language, who have a different tradition and a different way of life. An ambassador speaks for his or her home country. It is the country’s message and decision and policy that he or she conveys. The honor of a country is in the ambassador’s hands. Their country is judged by their actions. Their words are listened to, their deeds are watched, and people say, “That is the way this country speaks and acts”. Re-read replacing ambassador with Christian and country with Heaven, help the group to grasp the weight of their words and actions.

LIFE APPLICATION

Remember your Identity: your identity is in Christ not in winning an argument.

You are CHOSEN (Ephesians 1:11)

You are his CHILD (Galatians 3:26)

You are a new CREATION (II Corinthians 5:17)

You are FORGIVEN (Ephesians 1:7)

You are LOVED (Romans 8:39)

You are ACCEPTED (John 15:15)

You are his MASTERPIECE (Ephesians 2:10)

Find Affirmation: if I am willing to lay down the need to “win” an argument, if I am willing to let go of the desire to prove my point, I can always find something to affirm in the other person’s perspective. Even if all you can do is say, “regardless of what we may agree/disagree on, I appreciate how much thought you have put into this issue”.

Ask Good Questions: Asking good questions demonstrates an openness to learn, a willingness to understand even if we’ll never agree. Most importantly, it reflects a desire to know and respect another human being. Good questions look like: What brought you to this conclusion? What brings you the most joy because of this belief/stance? How does this belief/stance help you?

CHALLENGE

Whether it’s about politics, religion or what kind of pop you like, the temptation to draw lines, create teams and perpetuate unhelpful distinctions is constant. But God has not called us to a life of division; he has called us to a ministry of reconciliation. We need to remember that our mission is not to win arguments; our mission is to help people find their way back to God. Spend time this week looking for ways to practice implementing one of the three grace embodying steps.