



# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 3 January 22, 2023

“...About Diversity and Inclusion”

## OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for your grace, your mercy, and your love. Today we pray that you would help us be people, that despite our differences, can love one another. And that you would help us to find our voices, to be courageous Christians, and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

### Luke 10:25-29 (NIV)

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup> “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

<sup>27</sup> He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

<sup>28</sup> “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

### Galatians 3:26-28 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup> So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, <sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

### Proverbs 31:8 (NIV)

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,  
for the rights of all who are destitute.

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## INTRODUCTION

Our country has a history of injustice against women, people of color, and the LGBTQ community. However, younger generations of millennials and Gen Z have a passion for social justice and they are the most diverse generations in the history of our country. The result is a new focus on diversity and inclusion. So, what would Jesus say about diversity and inclusion?

The central ethic in scripture has to do with how we treat our neighbor. Jesus tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves and to do unto others as they do unto you (the golden rule). But Jesus didn't just talk about loving others, he modeled this principal for us. In the Gospels, you find Jesus constantly associating with people who were marginalized by society. Like Jesus, we need to have a willingness to stand up and speak out on behalf of those who are underrepresented or who are marginalized.

## QUESTIONS

1. How diverse was your elementary school?
2. In the 200+ passages that mention slavery in the Bible, not one of them mentioned that it was wrong. Does that mean that God condones slavery?
3. Have you ever been in a position to either fan the flames of hatred higher, or to lower the temperature and move toward peace? Which course did you choose? How did it turn out?
4. What are your thoughts on churches dividing over the issue of same sex marriage?
5. Jesus included women in his ministry and he ministered to women which was unheard of in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. How does Jesus' model speak to attitudes and actions that still undervalue (and often underpay) women in homes, workplaces or other settings?

## FINAL APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this week to give a voice to the voiceless?