



Small Groups

Small Group Discussion Guide

Living and Loving Like Jesus at Home - Part 2

Pastor Brian Howard

(Discussion Guide by Craig Peterson)

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For the past month, our country has experienced some of the worst internal conflict we have seen in years. Yet, there have been moments of unity and compassion. For example, in late May, Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson put down his baton to listen to protesters. They chanted 'walk with us.' So, he marched with protesters against police brutality and in memory of George Floyd in Flint Township, Michigan. He could have taken actions that escalated the situation, but instead, he was alert and sober minded. His actions de-escalated the situation and brought people, police and protesters together in agreement through a peaceful march.

This Father's Day weekend, Pastor Brian Howard encouraged us to act in "sober judgement" and choose to live and like Jesus in our homes.

Opening Question: What is one piece of advice your father gave you?

Read **1 Peter 1:13 – 16** out loud. Choose 2 or 3 of the sections below to discuss:

- 1. Biblical IMPERATIVES are based on Gospel INDICATIVES. What we should DO is based on what God has already DONE.**

Play the Do / Done Game: Give the group a word (an action) that God asks us to do and ask the group to respond with a scripture or a Biblical story that illustrates how God (The Father or Jesus) has already given us an example by doing the same thing.

Here is a list you can use to start with (Forgive, love, be generous, be peaceful, be patient, be kind, be unselfish, be long-suffering...)

- 2. "Alert" and "sober-minded" serve as guardrails, helping us navigating life's most complicated issues.**

"Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober..." 1 Peter 1:13a

Alert – A heart prepared for action

Question: What do you need to be alert about right now?

Sober Minded - to be calm and collected, temperate, dispassionate, circumspect

Question: What do you need to be sober minded about right now?

3. Hope is the voice that shouts “This is not permanent!”

“...set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.” 1 Peter 1:13b

Question: How does our hope in the return of Jesus affect how you react or respond when things get tough?

Question: Share an example of how knowing that our current situation is temporary has helped you deal with discouragement, temptation, struggles or suffering.

4. Even in the most difficult and challenging times, Jesus was responding rather than reacting. He was not overtaken by his emotions. He was patient, thoughtful, and calculated in His responses. Too often, we allow our current situation, circumstances, emotions and biases to influence us, and we react, rather than responding as followers of Jesus who are seeking to become more like Him.

“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.” 1 Peter 1:14

Question: What has been your default way of reacting to specific difficulties? How has that changed over time?

Question: What has helped you respond more like Jesus?

5. We are at our best when we remember that we are children of God - the God who loves us more than we can imagine, the God who has forgiven our sins and invited us into eternity with Him.

“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’” 1 Peter 1:15-16

Question: Share one aspect of your character where God has helped you to become more holy (ie., to live and love Like Jesus).

Question: What is one area of your life in which you would like to grow in holiness?

Pray together thanking God for His work in your lives and asking for His Spirit’s help as you seek to live and love like Jesus.