

Discussion Guide
Series: Polarized wk2 Field Training
August 11, 2024

Big Idea



Peacemakers (which is what we are called by God to be) value relationship & work at it even if there is disagreement.



Icebreaker

We know, we know...some dislike/don't enjoy/don't support the NFL, but any thoughts on what the Bills record will end up being this year along with a brief why?



Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. This was the springboard passage from August 4th for our series "Polarized". Why?
2. Read James 3:13. According to this passage, what is the true test of wisdom & what are some practical ways you can discern if you, yourself, possess it & if another possesses it? According to this passage, what ingredient(s) lead to this true wisdom?
3. Read James 3:14-16. Here we see James talk about one kind of "wisdom". Does it seem to be the one that, as Christians, we should desire to possess, why or why not? What two qualities seen in these passages disqualify us from being good messengers of reconciliation? Talk about each quality and how they can present themselves in everyday life. Have, or do, you tend to struggle with one of these over the other (this is ok to admit, you aren't Christ and you are not perfect!)?
4. Read James 3:17. Here we see James talk about true wisdom, the kind we, as Christians, should desire to possess. List out the 8 qualities that make up this true wisdom and talk about what they each practically look like when lived out. How you can intentionally pursue each of them?
5. Overall, when someone looks at your life, do you think they see a good (not perfect) one (with good being according to God's standard of good), why or why not? Is there one of these 8 qualities that you feel convicted by the Lord regarding? How may you begin to journey towards some growth in Christlikeness when it comes to this identified quality?
6. Read James 3:18. What is the difference between a *peacemaker* & a *peacekeeper*? Which does God desire of us? How do we pursue that? What are some things that make civil discourse a reality? How does the way in which one views the value of humanity overall & relationships with others of this humanity impact the reality of arriving at civil discourse?



Concluding Question

Review the Big Idea and share with one another how you can either continue to, or further (if you need to), pursue being a bridge for the space between us as humanity (a peacemaker, in other words, in a polarized world).



Prayer

Many were baptized as believers across our campuses this Sunday. This mean accepting the calling, really, to be a field representative; an ambassador for the Kingdom of God. They are so needed in a polarized culture! Pray that they (and we) will walk this calling out in the power of the Holy Spirit and that we will walk it out well, meaning in a way that honors the Lord and fulfills His desire of us.