

Instructions:

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



Series: There's Got to be a Better Way??!

It is no secret we live in polarizing and divisive times. Our world labels, judges, cancels, and dismisses others, all in the name of being on the "right" side. And all too often, Christians play right along, acting no better than anyone else. Even worse, the Christian faith has been used, reduced, and manipulated to justify hateful behaviors and particular worldviews. As we live through another election cycle, people of faith must ask; is this really how Jesus called us to live? Is this really what Jesus wanted for the church? What is at stake if American Christians continue in this way? Is a third way of living and loving even possible?

There's got to be a better way, right??!

Message Description:

Tis the season for another presential election season where we see clearly our deep political divide as a nation and a culture marked by blaming, misinformation, fearmongering, half-truths, and hateful rhetoric. While it is easy to sit back and bemoan the state of things or act like it happens away from us, too often followers of Jesus Christ play right along, joining in the fray to demand their own way. We argue and fight with fellow believers, line up behind our political party of choice and leverage our sacred text to validate political talking points, demonize and criticize people on social media, and obsess over winning at all costs. In short, we look nothing like the humility and love that Jesus calls us to.

Even if we are tempted to say, "not me" or "not my church." The truth is we all belong to one body of Christ, united by one faith, one baptism, and one Lord of all. There is no you and me, only we. And the witness of some believers impacts the whole. We cannot say to one another, "we have no need for you." AND we also have a responsibility to hold the body accountable when it strays from our one confession, Jesus Christ is Lord. We can disagree and still be united under this one confession, and in doing so transcend the cultural politic of our day. Every believer belongs.

Key Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Questions based on this week's teaching:

1. There are approximately 2.4 billion Christians worldwide. They do not all look alike, think alike, or speak alike, but they all bear the name "Christian." At minimum, what should unite us as followers of Jesus? What gives you hope about this global witness?
2. What do you find challenging about the diversity of the body of Christ?
3. Do you believe there is space for *all* to belong? Are there limits?
4. What do you find challenging about this election season? Do believe there is anything God is calling you to do differently right now?