



Counter Narrative: Love | August 23, 2017

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Jesus did not come to oppress, to wield power, or to do much of anything the "institution" of religion would have had Him do. Through Jesus, God told a story contrary to anything else...a story of love.

Key Verses

John 13:35 (NIV)

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Discussion

The world often encourages us to follow a path of exclusion, injustice, and hate. We are seemingly constantly bombarded with images and stories of individuals doing harm to other individuals. In this climate it can be difficult to determine how or where we can help.

1. What are your thoughts on some of the current national and world events that propagate hate?
2. When you see these acts of injustice, does it seem futile to help? Why?

Although we live in a world that supplies a seemingly endless amount of injustice, we can take hope. Jesus has offered us a counter narrative to the world's prevailing narrative of separating us by our differences. Jesus has challenged us to interrupt the evil in the world, not with more hate, but with acknowledgement, love, and forgiveness.

3. How do you see the prevailing narrative and counter narrative playing out in our world right now?
4. What are some ways you have seen Jesus' counter narrative play out in your life?
5. Does the counter narrative of Jesus change your worldview? Why?

It can seem difficult, if not impossible, to disrupt evil and injustice on an individual basis, but Jesus has offered us a guide. He asks us to go out into the world and love each other—not just those who are like us or those who have been good to us, but those who couldn't be more different than us and EVEN those who have hurt us.

6. What are some ways that you can practice Jesus' counter narrative in your own life?
7. What are some potential concrete, tangible things you could do to speak out against hate and speak up for love?

What's Next?

It is not enough to pray quietly and comfortably in our own homes or places of worship. Our faith calls us to engage injustice and ensure God's narrative is being told.

This week consider those in your community who suffer from the prevailing narrative of the world. Pray for the current state of the world and for direction in ways you can creatively serve.