



Everybody Always: People | June 19, 2019

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

The different perspectives on people show up the most when we are driving. People who are going too slow are idiots, people who are going too fast are maniacs. We can probably all admit that we've been both. Hear more about what this looks like in our faith below.

Key Verses

John 13:34-35 (NIV)

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Discussion

One of the hardest things about working or engaging with people, is the fact that they are people. And as people, we all have different perspectives and ways of doing things. The negative thing about perspective, however, is that it often pigeon-holes us into thinking that we're always right, and that people with different views or ways of doing things are always wrong. And when we do that, we often end up avoiding the people who aren't like us altogether, simply because we don't like to be around people with different beliefs or viewpoints than us.

1. Where do your perspectives on people show up most? When you're driving? At work? At the mall?
2. Why do you think we have the tendency to assume that we do things the right way and people who do them differently are wrong? When is a time recently you caught yourself thinking this way?

In his book, "Everybody Always," Bob Goff takes a look at what God asks of us in the midst of all the people in life we are surrounded by and engage with (by choice or not). The world is full of good people, fun people, difficult people, and even "creepy" people. And whether we like it or not, the fact is that God designed this world so that we would interact with, bump into, and engage with the people around us. Our faith is designed to be lived out alongside of each other. Bob also argues that we have a lot to learn from the people who aren't like us – the difficult people, the mean people, the creepy people – and that we might be a little more like Jesus if we chose to interact with instead of avoiding them.

3. Why do you think God was intentional about creating a world in which his people would live among one another and interact? Why do you think that is important to Him?
4. When is a time your life was enriched by someone you didn't agree with? How might we start to look more like Jesus if we spent more time around these people?

In John 13:34-35, Jesus explains how the disciples are to live in the world, among people, after Jesus is gone. He gives them a simple instruction, just love one another. The world would know they are disciples by the way they loved one another. But He also tells them to love their enemies. Jesus regularly sought out people who weren't like Him, people who didn't agree with Him, who were ridden with disease, and who flat out rejected Him. But He chose to love them anyway. And so when Jesus instructs His disciples to love one another, He also tells them to love those who are different from them as well.

5. How do you reconcile loving both those who are similar to you as well as those who are different? Is that difficult for you to understand? What does it look like lived out?
6. What do we learn from the way Jesus loved those who were very different than Him?

What's Next?

The beautiful truth is that God sees each of us as the people we are becoming, not who we were or who we are. What would it look like in our faith to not only see the people we like as the people they are becoming, but also the people we don't like as the people they are becoming as well? Instead of judging them based on their current actions, what if we could view them through the lens of their potential, as the people they *could* be.

This week, as you live out and engage your faith, take the challenge to do something different. Do one thing that would show somebody that you're in this together, even if you don't like them or agree with them. Take one step toward them not only so that they might know Jesus more, but also so that you might get a better picture of Jesus as well.