

UNCOMMON GROUND

MESSAGE BASED QUESTIONS

Uncommon Ground- WK 2

In a world that's divided, it's easier to pick a side than to fight for unity. But we have a higher calling- to choose honor in a world of division. Are you ready to stand on uncommon ground?

Conversation Starter: *Have some fun as you break the ice.*

- 2020 has thrown us some real interesting surprises. Let's talk about some!
 - How many spotted lanternflies have you seen? How many have you destroyed?
 - Would you rather eradicate murder hornets or spotted lanternflies?
 - Did you prefer to watch "Some Good News" or "Tiger King"?

Key Scriptures: *Let God's word frame the conversation. Take a minute to read these selected passages together as a Group.*

- John 17:20-21, Galatians 3.26-28
- What stood out to you most as you read these passages?

Discussion Questions: *Pick a few of the questions below to guide your time.*

Starting Sharing: *Choose a question or two to create openness.*

- What was it like when you got your first jersey or uniform after joining a team or club? What was it like when you competed together as a team against others?
- Is there anything you are afraid of losing in this season? (Hint: Think through areas like health, freedom, relationships, income, etc.)
- What person or group of people first attracted you to Jesus? What quality or characteristics made you want to lean in and learn more?

Start Thinking: *Choose a question or two to think critically about the subject.*

- When people think about Jesus and his church, would unity be the word that comes to mind? Why or why not? Do you think most people see Christians for who they are for or what they are against?
- Why is our message's credibility and effectiveness, the Gospel, at stake if we choose dishonor and division over unity?
- As followers of Jesus, how do we invert the order of identity, convictions, and fixed traits? Why must we be led by our identity in and allegiance to Jesus above all else?

Make it Personal: *Choose a question or two to help you identify your best next step.*

- In what areas have you caught yourself more concerned with holding to a position vs. losing a relationship?
- How are your actions and attitudes representing a gracious, loving, merciful Savior? What is out of wack?
- Where have you placed higher value and honor on those who share similar beliefs and convictions? Why does this contrast the way of Jesus?

Next Steps: *Everybody has a next step. Check out some ideas below to help you grow by doing.*

We are followers of Jesus, the recipients of his grace, created with purpose and meaning to join God in the mission to bring hope and love to this world.

- **Listen.** The best conversations don't start with a proclamation. Everyone who has a different perspective than you has perfect reasons in their own lives for why they arrived at those conclusions. Take time to hear their story.
- **Learn.** The quickest way to learn from someone lies in the statement– "Help me understand..." Be brave enough to engage in a conversation where you seek understanding and ask for clarity with an open heart and an open mind.
- **Love.** Every person you lock eyes with is the object of God's relentless love. Choose to look past fixed traits, preferences, and convictions, and see every person's God-given value.

Prayer: *Invite God to do what only He can do!*

God, thank you for giving us a new identity. Please help your love for us consume us that it may change how we interact with our brothers and sisters in Christ and with the people we cross paths with every day. May we be people who live out your prayer for us- a people who are united and known for love and respect for others. Please give us the courage to understand others' points of view and fight for people's hearts over positions. Amen

Bonus Feature: *Want to keep the learning going?*

- **Read the book:** Buy a copy of the Third Option and dive deeper into these principles.
- **Memorize It:** Which passage of Scripture shared today needs to be the sign in front of you for the next month or so? Which words do you need to keep in front of you to push through the divisiveness? Pick one, print it out or write it down or set it as your phone background, and let God speak into your heart through the daily reminder of His words to live His uncommon way in this world.
- **Act on It:** In Matthew 5:23-24, Jesus instructs us, saying, "*So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.*" Jesus is serious about unity. This week, think back on ask God to show you if you have offended or dishonored someone. If anyone comes to mind, work to restore that relationship. Send a text, make a call, mail a letter, or grab a coffee. The bottom line, if you want to honor God, make the relationship right!

Comments, questions, concerns? We're here to help.
Email us at groups@lcbchurch.com