

The banner features the title 'UNCOMMON GROUND' in large, white, serif capital letters, with 'MESSAGE BASED QUESTIONS' in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters below it. The background is a photograph of a vast, flat, arid landscape under a hazy sky.

# UNCOMMON GROUND

MESSAGE BASED QUESTIONS

## **Uncommon Ground- WK 3**

*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.*

- Did you ever change schools, jobs, or teams? Describe that experience,
- Share a time where you had a, "we're not in Kansas anymore moment"?

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

- Read- John 13, 34-35; Romans 12:14-18; Galatians 6:2-3; 1 Peter 3:8-9; James 1:19-20
- What key themes emerge from these passages?
- Which Scripture do you find most challenging, and why?

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

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

- Who was an unlikely friend that surfaced in your life? What circumstances brought you together?
- Which group(s) of people do you have a hard time relating with or understanding?
- Growing up, were there any strong prejudices represented in your household? If so, what were they?

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

- An echo chamber is an environment in which a person encounters only beliefs or opinions that coincide with their own. Therefore, their current views are reinforced, and alternative ideas are not considered. How can placing ourselves in this kind of environment impede progress and our growth?
- Why can hearing somebody out on the other side of a tense argument cause fear and intimidation?
- What is the typical result of stereotyping? How can these broad generalizations impact the way we think and react to specific groups of people?
- How does getting face-to-face with someone unlike us, and getting to know their story, usually help us understand them better and trust more?

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

- When is the last time you actively listened to and learned from someone with a different view? What did you discover or uncover?
- Have you ever blessed someone who was causing you grief? Is there anyone in your life who you'd struggle to want God to bless?
- What intimidates you about exposure to and experiences with those in your out-group?
- Who has opposing opinions that you can invite to begin a face-to-face dialogue? Reach out today.

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

If we want to change the world, we've got to love those who aren't like us. But how can we begin?

- **Start a Dialogue.** Get face-to-face with someone who doesn't see the world like you do. Invite that person out to lunch or coffee and spend time getting to know them.
- **Ask Questions.** When you get face-to-face, talk less, and listen more. Come prepared with some questions that will help you get to know that person and how they think. Remember, the goal is to learn more about them and from them, not to make them act or think like you.
- **Extend Grace.** Chances are, you or the other person may get hurt feelings. Choose to give them the benefit of the doubt and extend forgiveness. In other words, get thicker skin and decide to let go of the offense so you can grow the relationship.

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

God, thank you for choosing to model what it means to bear our burdens by stepping into our brokenness. Please help us to be people who follow the example of your Son, Jesus, by putting the needs of others first. Give us the supernatural ability to love people who are different from us and desire the best for them. Please grant us the courage to act on what we are learning. Allow us to engage in conversations and relationships with those we disagree with this week. 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.
- **Bless in the middle of the mess. :** In Romans 12:14, Paul instructs us, saying, "Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them." We likely don't have to think very hard about the people that annoy us or cause strife in our lives. Take some time to write down "those people's" names. Then take some time every day this week asking God to bless them. Take it a step further and ask Him for the opportunity for you to sit down with those individuals so you can grow your understanding and love for them in order to build a relationship.

Comments, questions, concerns? We're here to help.  
Email us at [groups@lcbchurch.com](mailto:groups@lcbchurch.com)