

UNCOMMON GROUND

MESSAGE BASED QUESTIONS

Uncommon Ground- WK 4

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.*

- What is your favorite scary movie, tv-show, or novel?
- Would you rather go without toilet paper for one week or coffee for one month?

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

- Read- 2 Timothy 1:7, Romans 8:15, John 13:35, James 5:16
- What stands out to you as listen/read these passages?
- If you could choose one verse to focus on this week, what would it be 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.*

- Share an irrational fear or phobia that you currently have or have overcome.
- As you examine the culture around you, what fears seem to be surfacing with regularity?
- What are you afraid of losing in this season?
- Why don't you think we're more open to confessing or discussing our trepidation with others?

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

- In his book, *The Third Option*, Pastor Miles McPherson says, "Fear is the enemy of unity." What does he mean by that? In your own experience, how have you found that to be true?
- Sometimes we write verses like 2 Timothy 1:7 off as cliché. Yet, Paul's experience gives weight to his words. How can knowing the context of his life add validity to his command to you and me?
- What does it look like to live with firm positions but gentle postures?

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

- In what ways (or what topics) have you sensed fear bubbling up in your heart?
- Share an example of how your fear of losing something resulted in losing the very thing you hoped to protect.
- Why is our behavior more critical than the box we select on our ballot? How have you gotten it reversed?
- How can you tap into God's Spirit of power this week to keep from fighting, fleeing, or being frozen in fear?
- Are you currently a safe place for people to express their fears or shortcomings? If not, what needs to shift to help you become a shelter for others?

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

If you are a follower of Christ, this world is not our ultimate home. Let's live in a way that shows others we belong to Jesus.

- **Be Spirit-led.** When we trust Jesus, he breathes a new life in us; he changes what moves us, what fills us; it's no longer the same spirit that drives the world, a spirit of protection, power, prestige, and then the fear that comes from trying to keep those things. Instead, the Spirit of God living in us, moving us, sustains us, completely reorienting us. This week, choose to let God have control.
- **Tap into His power.** When the Spirit of the world screams, be afraid, fight this, flee this, be frozen against this, the Spirit of God in us says no. Power doesn't mean being fearless, but we are no longer forced into it's control. Be scared, and move forward anyway.
- **Show His love.** God's love is deep, abiding, and sacrificial. It's a love that says I will "cherish, esteem, respect, I will be loyal, and show concern," no matter what. Jesus showed this love, dying on the cross in our place, that the Spirit of God grows in us to extend towards others.

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

God, thank you for your great love for us. Please help us not get distracted by temporary things but fix our eyes on what's eternal. Please help not to be fear-lead but be transformed by your Spirit. Help us to name our fears and move forward in the power and love of your Holy Spirit. 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.
- Read: **What Christians Should Do If Their Candidate Loses the 2020 Election** by Andy Stanley.
- **Name and Claim your Fear:** James, the half-brother of Jesus, tells us to "confess (our) sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." Fear is not from God. This week, examine your heart and uncover what fears are lurking beneath the surface. Then find someone you can trust- someone who will meet you with grace and truth and confess that fear out loud. In turn, be ready to be a safe place for others to process their concerns.

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