

# UNCOMMON GROUND

MESSAGE BASED QUESTIONS

## Uncommon Ground- WK 1

*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.*

- Share your favorite from three or four of the list below and tell us why (give some story behind it):
  - Sports team
  - Favorite musician/band
  - Car brand
  - Read the book or watch the movie
  - Favorite chef/cooking show
  - Digital or vinyl

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

- Matthew 7:12, Romans 12:9-10, James 2:8-9, and Ephesians 6:10-13
- Which themes or big ideas emerged to you as we read these together?

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

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

- What has you feeling exhausted from what you've seen and experienced recently?
- How would you feel (or have you felt) if someone asked you directly about your thoughts on what's happening in our country concerning racial injustice and civil/political unrest?

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

- Have you thought about the country's divisiveness in terms of divorce before? Do you see the resemblance/ comparison?
- Why is it dangerous to believe the worst about a person or group of people? How do you see this playing out in our culture right now?
- React to the statement, "We can choose sides, or we can choose honor. But we can't choose both." How can thinking in terms of "us vs. them" cause us to tear others down either conscientiously or subliminally?
- Why is it difficult to love people who are different from you? How does loving people who are unlike you truly demonstrate honor?

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

- Where have you forgotten to honor others, even if they're not honorable recently?
- In what ways are you drawn into a fight with someone's ideas. How can that become a distraction from the battle for their heart?
- If we're not careful, we can slip into an "us vs. them" mentality, and we begin to identify those who act, think, or behave differently as our enemy. Who is it for you? Who is Jesus boldly challenging you to love, even though they may not or did not earn your love?

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

The issues dividing us seem so overwhelming and so divisive that it can be paralyzing and tempting to do nothing. But doing nothing is not a choice – for followers of Jesus, it's not an option. Here are a few next steps to put into action this week.

- **Ask Jesus to guide and rule your life.** Without Jesus showing you, we don't have hope to change the script. Say, "Jesus, I don't know how to do this – please lead me so I can step up and follow you."
- **Share life with and honor others, not in our in-groups.** It's real easy to hate someone you don't know – but it's hard to hate someone you've gotten to know. Begin to share life with those in your out-groups.
- **Allow God's Spirit in you to empower you.** It's not natural to love and honor people in our out-groups, and on top of that, we are in a spiritual battle. So say, "Holy Spirit, I need your power to do this – I can't do this in my strength."
- **Confess and repent when we get it wrong.** When you get it backwards, admit it to God. Turn around and do it differently (repentance).

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

God, thank you for loving us even when we were your enemies. Please help us model the love that you displayed for us in sending your Son, Jesus. Thank you that He came to reconcile us to yourself. As people who follow Jesus, please help us act as a bridge to fix our broken world. Would you start working in our hearts this week that gives us the courage to be honest about where we are? Help us step towards being a person who honors others the way you chose to value and love each of us? Amen.

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

- **Read the book:** Buy a copy of the Third Option and dive deeper into these principles.
- **Fill in the blank:** Matthew 7:12 says, "Do to **others** whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets." Reread the passage and replace the word others with the name of a person/persons in your out-Group).
- **Memorize It:** Which passage of Scripture shared today needs to be the sign in front of you in 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.

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