



Small Group Discussion Guide

Not in a group? Email us at smallgroups@myriversidechurch.com

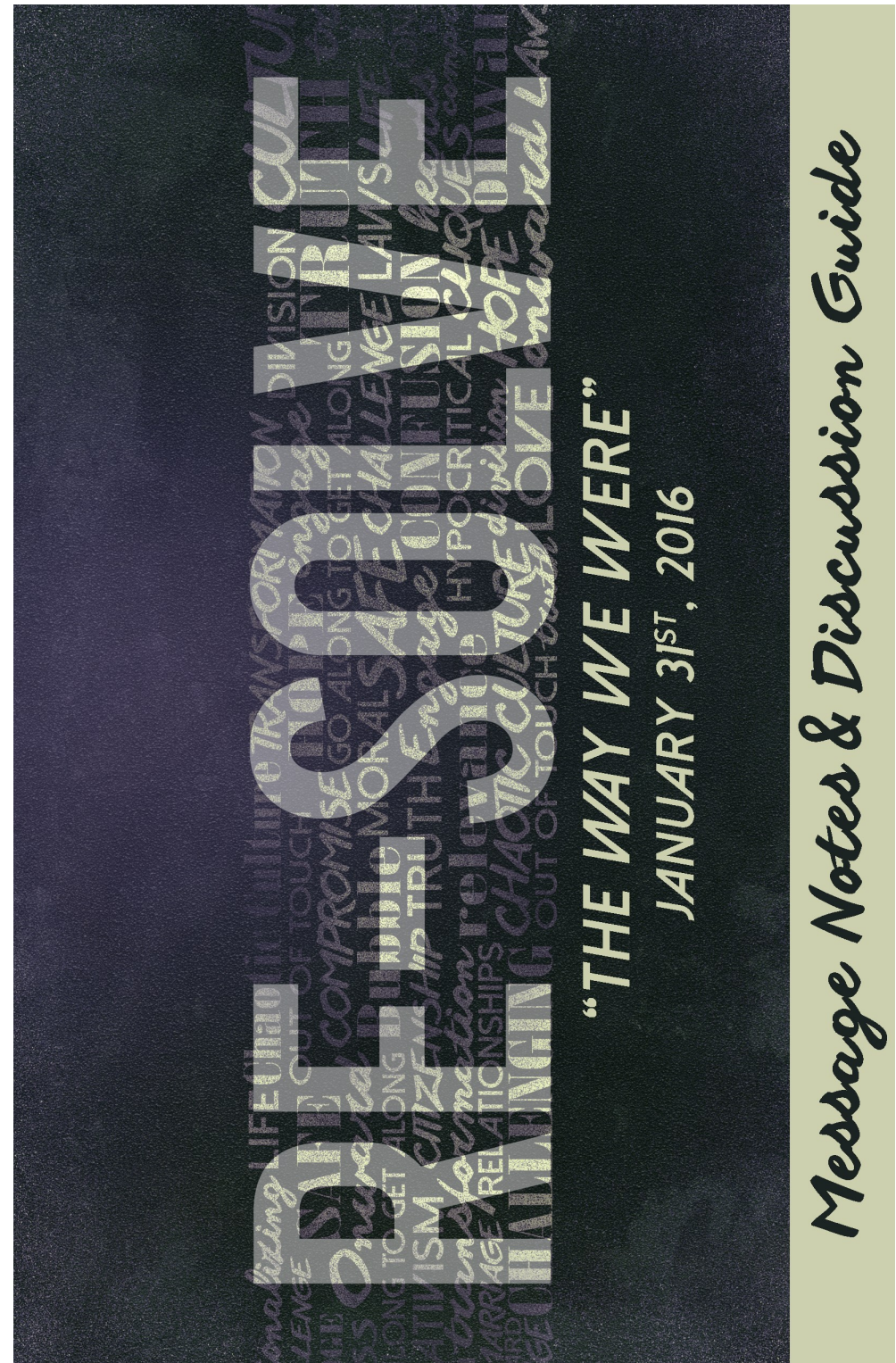
Ice Breakers: 2 in 3 people will have given up their New Year's resolution by the end of January. Are you the 1 in 3 who is still going, or are you the other 2 people who gave up before the end of the month?

Instructions: If your group meets bi-weekly, complete questions 1 & 4 this week.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. Pastor Tom explained that what we do in this life matters. This passage clearly states that those who choose to live a life apart from Jesus will go to hell. Does this knowledge urge us to action? Are we filled with compassion and moved to want to share the Gospel with others or do we find reasons not to say anything? What are some of those reasons? How can we overcome those reasons?
2. Matthew 7:13 tells us that the gate to heaven is narrow and the gate to hell is broad. Luke 12:5 explains that we should fear God and no others. The culture often tells us that it's okay to do something, even though the Bible says otherwise. Have you ever been in a situation where you had to choose between the prevailing culture and the Bible? If so, what was the situation and what was the outcome of your choice?
3. We've all experienced sin in our lives, but if we say YES to Jesus we are washed of our sins and renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit (see Titus 3:5). What does it mean to be washed of our sins? How does the Holy Spirit give us the power to resist sin? How does this allow us to live lives of holiness?
4. Pastor Tom urges us to "celebrate and share with others the amazing transformation we and others experience because of the power, love, and grace of Jesus". Take a moment to share part of your story, even if you have shared it with each other before. How can our stories make a difference in the lives of people who are still slaves to sin?

Pray with Your Small Group

This week we've talked about why we don't tell others about Jesus, how we've gotten out of sticky cultural situations, how to overcome sin, and God's transforming work in shaping our stories. Take time to thank God for his work in our lives and pray for opportunities to boldly share all He has done for us so others might say YES to Him.



Message Notes & Discussion Guide



"The Way We Were"

[Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen]

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter for his thoughts on various subjects at pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)

MESSAGE NOTES

- How do we _____ the culture without losing the gospel?
- How do we deal with the _____ that the same culture, which often scares us and angers us, has also left its imprint in our lives that we bring with us into Jesus' Church?

Note I Corinthians 1:20-25

Note Acts 17:5, 13; 21:30

In these verses (I Corinthians 6:9-11) are some _____ things that some people don't want anyone to talk about anymore, as well as a critical truth if we're going to be people who are able to effectively engage our culture without losing the gospel.

1. U _____ Truths

- A. Not everybody goes to _____ (note I Corinthians 6:9a) - note series on heaven and hell from 2013 (CD's/DVD's available)...the Person who talked about hell more than anyone else in the Bible was _____ (note John 3:3-5; Matthew 7:13; Luke 12:5). What we _____ with this life matters when it comes to eternity.
- B. _____ is destructive (note I Corinthians 6:9b-10) - Temple of Aphrodite=goddess of _____ (_____ Temple prostitutes)...note that all sexual _____ outside of a monogamous, one man/one woman marriage relationship is considered sinful in God's eyes...sin hurts ourselves, it hurts others, it _____ the Lord, and it was our sins that put Jesus on the cross...God's truths are never outdated or i _____ (note series Sex. Love. Marriage. Does the Order Matter? From 2012, CD's/DVD's available).

2. _____ Transformations (note I Corinthians 6:11)

Who makes us the c _____ of a church?

Genuine Christ-followers d _____ h _____ people who struggle with sin and are lost because they needed to be rescued from their sins and realized they were lost.

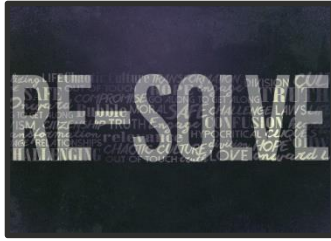
Because of Jesus we can say, "This is who I _____."

- "w _____" (note Titus 3:5; Hebrews 10:22b)
- "Sanctified" (note I Thessalonians 4:3-7) - sin no longer has to be our r _____ master.
- "i _____" (note Romans 4:25; I Peter 3:18a)

With resolve let's "re-solve" to engage the culture without losing the gospel:

- ..._____ and graciously, we have to hold to truths that may make people uncomfortable...
- ...and we need to celebrate and _____ with others the amazing transformation we and others experience because of the power, love, and grace of Jesus.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“The Way We Were”

[Sr Pastor, Tom Lundeen]

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter for his thoughts on various subjects at pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)

MESSAGE NOTES

- How do we engage the culture without losing the gospel?
- How do we deal with the reality that the same culture which often scares us and angers us has also left its imprint in our lives that we bring with us into the Jesus' Church?

Note 1 Corinthians 1:20-25

Note Acts 17:5, 13; 21:30

In these verses (1 Corinthians 6:9-11) are some unpopular things that some people don't want anyone to talk about anymore, as well as a critical truth if we're going to be people who are able to effectively engage our culture without losing the gospel.

1. Uncomfortable Truths

- A. Not everybody goes to heaven (note 1 Corinthians 6:9a) - note series on heaven and hell from 2013 (CD's/DVD's available)...the Person who talked more about hell than anyone else in the Bible was Jesus (note John 3:3-5; Matthew 7:13; Luke 12:5). What we do with this life matters when it comes to eternity.
- B. Sin is destructive (note 1 Corinthians 6:9b-10) – Temple of Aphrodite = goddess of sex (1000 Temple prostitutes)...note that all sexual behavior outside of a monogamous, one man/one woman marriage relationship is considered sinful in God's eyes...sin hurts ourselves, it hurts others, it grieves the Lord, and it was our sins that put Jesus on the cross...God's truths are never outdated or irrelevant (note series Sex. Love. Marriage. *Does the Order Matter?* from 2012, CD's/DVD's available).

2. Amazing Transformations (note 1 Corinthians 6:11)

Who makes up the congregation of a church?

Genuine Christ-followers don't hate people who struggle with sin and are lost because they needed to be rescued from their sins and realized they were lost.

Because of Jesus we can say, “This is who I was.”

- “washed” (note Titus 3:5; Hebrews 10:22b)
- “sanctified” (note 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7) – sin no longer has to be our ruthless master.
- “justified” (note Romans 4:25; 1 Peter 3:18a)

With resolve let's “re-solve” to engage the culture without losing the gospel:

- ...kindly and graciously, we have to hold to truths that may make people uncomfortable...
- ...and we need to celebrate and share with others the amazing transformation we and others experience because of the power, love, and grace of Jesus.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!