

LISTENING GUIDE

1. Our goal as a local church is to _____ God's _____ for his Church.

2. God wants his Church to be a house of _____ for all _____.

3. At the heart of racial tension is _____ and a _____ - _____ attitude.

4. Two commonalities all people share:
 - 1) _____ from God by _____.

 - 2) Jesus died for _____ people.

5. God's church celebrates _____ within the _____ of God's grace.

6. The question to ask of our church:

What would it take to become...

LIFEGROUPS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

COMPLETE THESE QUESTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR YOUR LIFE GROUP.
BRING THIS SHEET AND A BIBLE WITH YOU TO YOUR LIFE GROUP.



QUICK REVIEW

Considering this week's sermon was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

What is one thing from this week's sermon you hope we talk about in our group?

WARM UP

In worship we noted that often tensions arise when different cultures and ethnicities meet. **Share a positive experience you have had with/ in a culture not your own.**

INTO GOD'S WORD

The book of Isaiah has often been called "The Fifth Gospel." There are many prophecies that point ahead to Jesus and his work as the Savior. There are also many sections that speak of God's grace to all people on earth. **Look up the following passages from Isaiah and note how God describes his work to reach all people, then consider any specific fulfillments of these words of prophecy.**

Isaiah 2:2-5

Isaiah 11:1-11(Cf. Matthew 3:13-17)

Isaiah 60:1-6 (Cf. Matthew 2:1-12)

The sermon emphasized God's church as a house of prayer for all nations. In the Gospel reading, from Matthew 15: 21-28, a Canaanite woman approached Jesus. Jesus' comments to her seem denigrating and offensive, but he certainly knew the truth expressed in Isaiah 56. **Explain how Jesus' words were actually beneficial...**

...for the woman:

...for Jesus' disciples:

Within the list of descriptors God uses for those he has brought to his holy mountain in Isaiah 56:7 is this phrase: "all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it." Though it might not have much to do with Saturday, the Sabbath remains an important concept for modern day Christians. In his explanation to the third commandment Martin Luther wrote, "We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it." **How do we keep the Sabbath without desecrating it?**

INTO MY LIFE

As you think about how you interact and engage with people of other backgrounds, race, and cultures are there attitudes or actions you want to look at more closely or change?

Looking back at this week's sermon and study, what is most important for you to remember?

SHARING & PRAYER

Prayer requests:

