



All Is Bright - *Seeing others in the light*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 1)

TRADITIONAL DISCUSSION MODEL

When have you ever been singled out or stereotyped because of something about you? How did it make you feel?

What are your thoughts when you read the Aristotle quote from the message?
For that some should rule and others be ruled is a thing not only necessary, but expedient; from the hour of their birth, some are marked out for subjection, others for rule.

--Aristotle

What was the world like that Jesus was born into?

In what ways did the early church begin changing their perspective about disparate groups? Can you think of passages from the Bible as examples?

Read Jude 19. What does this verse say about how we categorize people? How do you see the *evil one* using categories to divide people both within and outside the Church?

When has the realization that people are made in God's image and people for whom Christ died made a difference in how you thought about or treated them? What are some other ways those concepts are affecting your perspective?

What are some of the most difficult stereotypes for you to shed right now? In what ways is God chiseling away at those in you? What steps could you take to remove some of the stereotypes you currently have?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 2)

The two big questions:

1. What is God saying to you in this message?
2. What do you want to say to God because of the message?

CONTEMPLATIVE DISCUSSION MODEL:

What are you learning about God from this message?

What are you learning about yourself from the message?

What questions does this message bring up for you?

What is God doing in your heart lately?

What things do you feel are getting in the way from what God wants to do in you?

What is the biggest thing causing you concern these days? (something to pray about)



Leader Guide

All Is Bright: *Seeing others in the light*

Christmas is the story of God breaking through the darkness of this world with light and life. The birth of God's son brings light to the world that enables us to see life and others differently. Because of Jesus, all is bright.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. –Luke 2:8-9

OUTLINE & SCRIPTURES

The light of Christ changes the way we see others

John 1:9 *The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.*

1. The light of Christ allows us to see others as God sees them.

Mt 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
Children?

For that some should rule and others be ruled is a thing not only necessary, but expedient; from the hour of their birth, some are marked out for subjection, others for rule.
--Aristotle

We are created in God's image

Ge 1:27 God created man in his own image

2. The light of Christ allows us to see each person as someone for whom Christ died.

Rev 5:9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God **from every tribe and language and people and nation.**

Jesus has chosen a very colorful bride.

The value of something is determined by what someone is willing to pay for it



Rev 5:9 And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and **with your blood you purchased men** for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

3. The light of Christ allows us to see past stereotypes

Stereotype: *an over simplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing*

A stereotype says, “Those people – they’re all the same. Stereotyping is one area where Christians can actually be worse than the world because we tend to add religious categories to the list we already have.

Satan is a divider by emphasizing categories

Jude 19 These are the men who **divide** you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

Cultural stereotyping of Mary

Matt 1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, **he had in mind to divorce her quietly.** 20 But after he had considered this, **an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream** and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”--which means, “God with us.” 24 **When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him** and took Mary home as his wife.

Simeon describes infant Jesus as the light who would bring together two of the most disparate people groups of his time

Luke 2:28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all people, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

Two Questions:

- What is God asking of me in this message?
- What do I want to ask God about this message?