

Journey CHURCH

Pastor James Greer

James@jcpineville.com

www.jcpineville.com



Session 1 Leader Guide

TEACHING NOTES:

Play the video segment for session one. As you watch, use the following outline to record any thoughts or concepts that stand out to you.

Happiness happens when you choose to give it away. Jesus' words were spot-on when he said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

One of the most difficult relationship questions is what to do with your "opposite you." You know the one-it's the person with whom you fundamentally disagree.

Accept one another. The verb Paul uses for accept means more than to merely tolerate or coexist with someone. It means to welcome the person into your fellowship.

While Jesus doesn't accept our sinful behavior, he always accepts us as his wayward children. He doesn't tell us to clean up before we can come to him.

You are never called to redeem the world. Happiness happens not by fixing people but by accepting them and entrusting them to God's care.

It is one thing to have an opinion. It's something else to have a fight. So when you sense the volume increasing and the heat rising, close your mouth.

Happiness happens when you show other people that they matter. The Bible says that as you greet others and show acceptance, you demonstrate the love of Christ.

Three phrases-"I love you," "I forgive you," "supper's ready"-summarize Jesus' message. He came with love, grace ... and a dinner invitation.

DISCUSSION:

1. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Have you ever experienced happiness by giving it away? If so, describe that experience.
2. Paul instructs, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you" (Romans 15:7). What is the difference between accepting someone and tolerating someone?
3. Whom would you consider your "opposite you"? (This could be someone from your past or someone in your life today.) How do you typically interact with that person?
4. Read John 1:14. What does it mean to be full of both grace and truth? Who is someone in your life who is full of grace and truth? How does this person show these qualities?
5. Read Romans 14:1-3. Social media provides a hostile environment where people often argue, disagree with each other, and tear each other down. How can this passage be applied to the way we get into arguments and debates on social media and elsewhere?
6. Read Romans 16:16. Why do you think Paul made it a point to instruct the church members in Rome to greet one another?
7. When was a time someone greeted you when you were having a bad day or going through a difficult season? How did that greeting make you feel?
8. What part of Allison's story resonated with you? After listening to her story, did anyone come to mind whom you need to accept? How could you work to accept this person?