

Community Group Discussion Guide

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Scripture: Luke 12:49-59



THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Jesus describes the polarizing nature of his ministry and his deep desire to fulfill his redemptive plans, exposes the hypocrisy of failing to recognize the presence of God's Kingdom, and warns us to settle our sin debt with God before it is too late.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION *(Use along with Reading: Ante Faciem Dei)*

1. Why is Jesus the most polarizing figure in human history? Why was Jesus distressed until his mission was accomplished (verse 50)? What would his mission achieve?
2. Discuss how Jesus is the Prince of Peace and yet also brings division on earth (verse 51).
3. Define the metaphors of *fire* and *baptism* that Jesus uses (verses 49-50).
4. Why did Jesus call the crowds *hypocrites* (verse 56)? Why did they fail to recognize the kingdom of God in their midst?
5. Do you value Scripture as the revealed word of God and our authority in faith and life? How can we be faithful in meeting the spirit of the age with the gospel and truths of Scripture?
6. Discuss the following ways we can be prepared for and navigate relationships that are strained due to our faith in Christ:
 - a. Pray (2 Corinthians 1:8-11)
 - b. Cling to the gospel
 - c. Find comfort in the community of faith
 - d. Seek to maintain relationships (Romans 12:18)
 - e. Stay on mission
7. What is Jesus' warning in verses 57-59? How did Jesus graciously pay our sin debt on the cross?