

NOTES:

We have always been focused on celebrating diversity because we know that God celebrates diversity. But we have a real enemy—demonic forces at work in our culture, that want to steal, kill, and destroy. Our response must be to keep our eyes on Jesus and watch for what He is doing while the enemy is at work.

It takes the cross to grow into forgiveness and healing. What God takes us to hard places, He does it to bring us to Him. We know that Jesus knows and understands the pain of our African American brothers and sisters. Our prayer is that God will bring revival to our land and bring His healing to the people.

We know that our Church hasn't arrived, but we are thankful for all that God has already in our Church to grow the heart of diversity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

How has this discussion on race challenged your thoughts?

Why is it so important to focus on what Jesus is doing in the middle of this season?

How does having an awareness of both the precious and the vile inside of you temper your response to these issues?

What is the danger of defining people by labels instead of the cross?

Are you willing to pray for those whom you disagree with? Why is it so important to pray for someone you disagree with?

What changes in your life when you begin to "consider others as better than yourself"?

VERSES:Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Joshua 5:13-14

Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" 14 "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come."

James 1:20

Human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;

Philippians 2:3-5

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.