

LOVE · LESSON 1 · LEADER GUIDE

VIDEO SEGMENT 1



BREAKOUT SESSION

Play the video until asked to pause.

After pausing, assign one of the following three metaphors (Battle, Exile, or Law Court) to each discussion group.

Ask them to read the appropriate passages and discuss the questions in their section.

1. SOLDIER

COLOSSIANS 2:15

"And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

1 CORINTHIANS 15:57

"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

JOHN 15:13

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

QUESTIONS

- a) What makes this metaphor motivating and compelling for you, personally?
- b) Imagine coming back victorious from this battle and waking up every morning knowing that the only reason you are alive is that somebody else sacrificed their life to save yours.
 - How would this impact the way you view your life, even on a mundane every-day basis?
 - How would this impact your priorities and decision-making?

2. EXILE

I PETER 2:9-12

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."

QUESTIONS

a) What makes this metaphor motivating and compelling for you, personally?

- b) In what ways does being a Christian bring you into community with other people? How has this been a blessing in your life?
- c) We are now the people of God, but we are still living as "foreigners and exiles." What does this mean?

3. TRIAL

ROMANS 3:23-24

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

St. Paul says that we are "justified freely by his grace." The word "justify" means "to declare 'not guilty". The image is that of a judge declaring a sentence in a courtroom. In this case, the judge is God, and we are the defendants.

QUESTIONS

- a) What makes this metaphor motivating and compelling for you, personally?
- b) Imagine going back to life after your court date not only without handcuffs on your wrists and shackles on your feet, but with a new and completely clean legal record.
 - · How would this impact the decisions you make in the future?
 - Would this make you more or less likely to go back to your life of crime?

After the groups are finished discussing, play the video.

VIDEO SEGMENT 2

BREAKOUT SESSION



After pausing the video, ask participants to follow the instructions in their study guide.

Choose 2-3 of the following cultural changes to discuss in your group.



For each change discuss... 1) Whether you have seen this cultural change in your own community, and

2) How this cultural change affects our mission to spread the gospel.

CULTURAL CHANGES

- 1. Distrust of institutions ("Why does the church have the right to boss me around?")
- Increased mobility/transiency (Fewer generational churches)
- 3. Increased access to content/info (Local pastor no longer viewed to be the expert people can find plenty of preachers and teachers online, TED talks, etc.)
- 4. Consumer mentality ("I want the church to do what I want or I'm going elsewhere")
- **5. Moral relativism** ("There are no absolute rights and wrongs.")

After the groups are finished discussing, play the video.

VIDEO SEGMENT 3



BREAKOUT SESSION

After pausing the video, have the group read Matthew 28:18-20 together. Then, assign discussion groups to be either group A, B, or C and follow the instructions for the appropriate group.

Read the passage together

MATTHEW 28:18-20

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

GROUP A – Discuss the specific comfort of having Jesus at your back (all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to him.)

GROUP B – Discuss the specific comfort of having Jesus at your side (He said he is with us always)

GROUP C – Discuss the specific comfort of having Jesus go in front of you (He is actually the one doing the mission work through his Means of Grace.)

After the groups are finished discussing, play the video.



VIDEO SEGMENT 4



GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss in your group: How does it make you feel that, given our current culture, you may need to personally be involved in reaching lost souls?

