



Sermon Discussion Guide

January 6, 2019
"Love Complete"
Pastor Steve DeNeff
John 17:20-26;
Ephesians 4:1-6

ACCEPT

Making Room for Each Other's Week

If your group doesn't take time to catch up each week, you can start with this in order to hear what is going on in each other's lives.

Each person in the group share a best and worst moment from the past week. (*Set a timer – each person gets one minute*)

ENCOURAGE

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." **John 14:27**

Share Scriptural words of encouragement with each other based on how you have been praying for each other this week or in response to what was just shared.

TEACH

Sermon Summary

Epiphany (*epiphaneia*) means "appearing or revealing" and celebrates the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles. In Jesus is the shocking revelation that God has come again, this time in flesh, and this time to the Gentiles also. What began with Abraham has jumped the boundaries and now "*there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female for we are all one in Christ Jesus; (so) if we belong to Christ we are Abraham's seed,*" (Gal. 3:28-29). When God called Abraham, He had Jesus in mind (see John 8:56).

In Jesus, God's solution to a universal problem is a particular person and not just a person but a people through whom God will bless the earth. These people live with God and God lives through these people in ways that are peculiar, yet attractive to the rest of the world. The revelation of Jesus is not just about Jesus. It is also about us, who were "*all baptized by one Spirit into one Body . . . and we were all given one Spirit to drink,*" (1 Cor. 12:13). Jesus, the Son of God, is the whole Church in the shape of a single person. What if a whole community moved toward this together, from slave to child? What if the Church was truly the Body, the physical Presence of Christ in the world? If we lived together as God lives within Himself, in the Trinity, how would we live And how would it be peculiar yet attractive to the way everyone else lives?

Use the Love One Another card, score your group, and discuss what the group does well as well as what areas could use improvement.

Sermon Review Questions

1. What might happen in Grant County if CWC and the other groups you are a part of began to shift from slave to child and lived with love for one another? What might be some signs that this was happening?
2. What are some ways we can "accept one another?" How do we make room for others in our schedules and places? How is it hardest for you to make room for others? Who is it hardest for you to make room for?
3. Have you known people who listened well, discerned what was really wrong, and then spoke words of encouragement that were what was needed? What were they like?

4. Teaching one another requires the involvement of everyone in the group. How do you participate in the teaching of the groups in which you are a part? How do you facilitate the involvement of others in teaching?
5. What barriers keep your groups from being places of confession and forgiveness? (Places where people are vulnerable, real, and supportive.)
6. Who have you known who serves others well? (They help carry the burdens of others to the point that they are truly a part of the victories and losses of the other.) What were they like?
7. Who are the people you believe truly pray with you and for you? Who do you pray with and for regularly?

Transformation Questions

1. What do you think God is saying to you?
2. What is keeping you from doing this?
3. If you were to do it, what might be a good first step?
4. Who will you tell? Or who will you ask to help you?

CONFESS & FORGIVE

John Wesley's Holy Club asked themselves 22 questions every day in their private devotions over 200 years ago. These questions can be used to help group members self-evaluate and share with the group as they are willing. Here are 5 of those questions

1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
2. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
3. Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?
4. Can I be trusted?
5. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?

Ask if there is anything or anyone someone in the group needs to forgive.

SERVE

Burden Bearing

Is there someone in the group or connected to the group who needs the tangible support of the group? How can the group help to bear that person's burden?

PRAY

Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. **1 Thessalonians 3:10-13**

Share ways you can pray for each other over the coming week.

Spend time praying for each other now.