





COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: It is only by endeavoring to look sin straight in the face that we are able to understand grace.

HEAD CHANGE: Engaging culture with the full weight of sin doesn't need to be embarrassing, it is necessary.

HEART CHANGE: Nothing that we despise in others is entirely absent from ourselves.

LIFE CHANGE: A healthy and proper understanding of sin leads to our deep need for our Savior.

OVERVIEW

Inhabitants & Foreigners

Generations after Israel had been freed from Egyptian slavery, they were hauled off into exile in Babylon, a secular country. In the book of Jeremiah, we see that God's call to Israel was to retain their foundational identity as God's people even though they were resident aliens in a foreign land. Despite their status as exiles .. God tells them to stay put. Put down roots, build houses, plant gardens ... We too are spiritual exiles and resident aliens. We live here but we don't really belong here. So how do we live faithfully in the space between, not running from the world and not conforming to it but faithfully following Jesus with two feet in both worlds?

1 Peter 2:11 (NLT) - Dear friends, I warn you as **“temporary residents and foreigners”** to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you in this teaching? Why do you think that resonated?
2. How does it hit you that, as a follower of Jesus, you are a resident alien? Why is it important that we feel and live into that tension?
3. Dick Staub mentioned the three approaches of Christians responding to culture are to withdraw, to combat, or to conform. How and where do you see these postures today?
4. If you were to ask your friends which of the three postures you embody, what might they tell you?
5. In your own words, why is orthodoxy, orthopraxy, and orthopathy important and how do they help us live faithfully “in the space between”?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Father, we can't do any of this without You. We recognize that you are in control. Give us grace to hunger for your words more than those of anyone else. We accept your truth as the supreme authority in our lives. Teach us to see sin & grace as you do. In Jesus name, amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!