



Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide: THE BIBLE 11.04.2018

Recap:

- Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 that women should be silent in churches and submissive to their husbands. This seems at odds with what we read in earlier verses in this book, elsewhere in the Bible (stories of women who display leadership and great faith, such as Miriam, Deborah, and the Mary's) and from our own experiences.
- The passage in 1 Corinthians has been used to subjugate women and keep them quiet. However, the writer Paul was likely addressing a particular situation.
- Paul isn't telling all women to be silent for the rest of time, he is commanding the church to teach these women so they can play a significant part in teaching and leading.
- What they are really saying is that the church isn't the church until everyone, especially the marginalized on the sidelines, are taught and empowered to become leaders of the church.
- The real message of Paul that we need to take away is what the church should be -- a place that accepts everyone, regardless of race, sex, gender, age, background, or any other quality.
- We should consider different sides of a situation and not be closed-minded to only our way. The Kingdom of God is about inviting and listening, not demanding others accept our opinion (which we consider final).

Discuss:

- READ 1 Corinthians 14:34-35
- Women, if you feel comfortable, how do these verses make you feel? Have you experienced other people try to use verses like this against you to make you lesser than men?
- What do you think about church hierarchy? Do you think that a hierarchy exists? If so, what is it? Do you think qualifications for leadership should exist in church?
- What areas in your faith do you feel you need to take a posture of learning? What are some areas you feel you can teach others about?
- At our church, children stay through the songs and then are excused to their classrooms. How do you feel about children participating and leading in worship?
- READ Galatians 3:28
- Inclusivity is easy to talk about and hard to implement. Why do you think this is so?
- What do you think are issues in our society and in our church that drive a wedge between people?
- How do you envision disagreements and differing opinions in the 21st century Kingdom of God existing?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

Read at Home: Additional Readings about Inclusion

- Joel 2:28-32
- John 13:3-17
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-27