



WEEK ONE | A DIVERSE CHURCH

This series is different than typical series. The main reason being it is based in a conversation between Russ and others. Each week, we will dig into core values that have become the biblical foundation for who we are as a church. This week Russ and Ebony had a conversation about the long and winding road to being a racially, faithfully (faith background and not denomination), etc. diverse church. Being a conversation, these study guides may not reflect exactly what they discussed but will remain true to the foundation and principles of our core values as a church.

What are the core values for your life? Why are they core? (**Everyone lives by a set of core values whether they are stated or not. The evidence is in how you live your life. These values can be good, or they can be bad.)

TALK ABOUT IT

Why is it important to have or understand your core values as...

A person?

A church?

Read John 4:1-10, 13-15, 21-26 (The Samaritan woman at the well)

What makes the core value of diversity challenging or difficult for you? For our church?

What were the risks and rewards for Jesus by loving and accepting those from other races?

APPLY IT

Read Revelation 7:9-10.

What does this image of a heavenly gathering tell you about God's and Jesus' core values?

We all come to the table with a history and experience. Some are similar while others are not. These are what make us who we are and how we think and feel. There is damage to be repaired in all of us. Being a diverse church makes us like Jesus. That's why it's a core value. Close by discussing the meaning of the following quote by Larry Acosta.

"We hurt in isolation but heal in community."

PRAY

Read this before you pray. Luke 10:25-28.

It's the end of the discussion time, and you are likely feeling rushed to let everyone go. Maybe it went longer than you planned. Maybe the kids are past restless. **HOLD ON!** Don't overlook this crucial part of living life together. We get closer to people the more we know who they really are and what they are dealing with.

- Pray together before you go home.
- Take requests, email them to the group, ask them to pray this week.