

STUDYGUIDE

January 18, 2009

A Global Revolution

New Years Revolution Week Three - Group Study

From the misfits, untouchables and 'not-good-enough's' with whom Jesus chose to surround himself, to the things he did with and along side of them, it is no wonder that Jesus' contemporaries felt uncomfortable with Him. Jesus challenged almost every social norm of the day.

The average religious leader of Jesus' time would spend their day teaching in religious institutions and dining with affluent politicians. Jesus and His followers, on the other hand, would sit and eat with prostitutes and con artists: people with whom any respectable person would not be found.

Normally, people would walk 20 feet out of their way to avoid on-comers who clearly had a communicable disease. Instead, Jesus would walk right up to these people and touch them tenderly,

pray for healing and simply be with and comfort them.

When he came across a socially-rejected person like the woman who had been divorced five times (John 4), Jesus made it His mission to speak life, healing and hope into her circumstances; even when it would ostracize him from the other respected people of the day.

Jesus and His disciples were constantly accused of being in places they shouldn't have been, spending time with people they should have shunned and doing things they shouldn't have done. In many ways, Jesus' and His disciples' behaviour didn't make any sense then - and probably wouldn't make sense now either.

What was it that drove them and caused them to act in such a peculiar manner?



This Weeks Service "A Global Revolution"

How much of your life takes you outside of your own interests? We spend innumerable hours organizing our lives around our own needs: earning money, acquiring 'toys', pursuing hobbies, career advancement, home improvements. Although it's not all bad, much of it is ultimately self-interested, focused entirely on how it can benefit us. Is it possible that we were made to set our sights higher than this, that there our lives could revolve around something greater than serving myself?

Discussion Questions

Lets take a look at some examples of Jesus breaking some of the social norms of His day. Take a moment to read the following passages either as a group or individually.

- Luke 7: 36-50
- Luke 19:1-10
- Mark 1: 40-45
- John 4: 7-30

- What was Jesus' attitude towards the people with whom he interacted in these stories?
- Put yourself in the shoes of the person Jesus was talking to. How do you think you would have felt leaving this conversation? Why would they feel that way?

Read John 5: 19-20. Jesus responded to criticism over His behavior in this passage.

- What does this passage tell us about God's heart? In other words, if Jesus is doing what he sees His father doing, what types of things are important to God?

Read Luke 6:12-19. Jesus' life followed a specific pattern: connecting with God, then living in community and then serving the hurting.

- How do you see that pattern in this passage?
- In what way does Jesus' example apply to our lives?
 - How do these three activities intersect?
 - Can one exist without the other?
 - How should we mimic this pattern in our own lives?

**If you did not get the chance to read Henry Noewen's article in last week's study guide, take a few moments and check it out.*

It seems like Jesus' method of encouraging "God's kingdom" to come was to meet the hurting and lost right where they were at.

- What does it look like for us, as His followers, to imitate this example?
- Are you in proximity and relationship with someone who is hurting? What does it look like for you to "Be Jesus" to them?

Jesus did what He saw his Father doing, and was considered a social deviant. What does it look like for you to live a life that doesn't make sense to the world?

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Group Activities

Here are a few activities you can do individually or as a group this week.

- If genuine, authentic relationship takes time and vulnerability consider encouraging your fellow group members to spend some time together outside of your regular evening. Perhaps each person could be encouraged to get together with a fellow group member they do not know as well and share their spiritual story.
- Pray together! Perhaps for the next month every group member commit to praying for one other group member.
- Discuss, in general, some different things you can do (as a group)to stretch your spiritual lives. As a groups could you pray together differently or more, are there service opportunities you could participate in together, etc.

Digging Deeper

Books

- The Secret Message of Jesus: Uncovering the Truth that Could Change Everything by Brian McLaren
- The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical by Shane Claiborne
- Reading the Bible Again for the First Time by Marcus Borg
- Becoming Human by Jean Vanier

DVD

- Nooma DVD - Dust

Bible

- Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- Colossians

Next Sunday join us for... "A Powerful Revolution"

To be perfectly frank, not much of what we've talked about in this series is truly revolutionary. Who hasn't, at one point or another, acknowledged a need for deeper spiritual meaning in our lives or for more deep-spirited community or for a more selfless, others-focused way to live? Yet, something always gets in the way. This too becomes one more unmet goal in our lives. So, how do we truly create this New Year's Revolution in our lives, in a way that will finally stick this time?

Reminders....

Go>>09

Mark February 27th and 28th on your calendars for The Ridges conference to equip and motivate those who attend Southridge for a lifestyle of action. Look for more information at the Outreach Kiosk or by visiting www.go.southridgechurch.ca Contact us at info@southridgechurch.ca, or visit our website.

Membership Workshop

Interested in exploring what Southridge is all about, how to get involved or learning about church membership? Join us January 19, 22 or February 5 from 7-9:30pm. Please register at the Group Life Kiosk or at info@southridgechurch.ca.

Facility Volunteer Opportunity

Are you interested in serving here at The Ridge but aren't sure where to plug in? If this is you, check in at the Operations Kiosk today and pick up a volunteer form or contact Kris Warkentin (kwarkentin@southridgechurch.ca or (905) 682-9901 ext 233) for more information.

Contact Kris Warkentin at kwarkentin@southridgechurch.ca or 905.682.9901x233.

Eldership Appointment Process

We are now entering the final stages of the 4-month process of appointing additional Elders to our Board, as the existing Eldership team is recommending Joan Hyatt and Carrie Jones to be affirmed as Board Members at the Annual General Meeting on February 8. For the next month, people are now encouraged to pray about these recommendations and, if anyone is aware of any reason that either of these individuals would be unsuitable for Eldership at Southridge, they are to contact an existing Elder to share their concerns with them privately. Names and contact information for each existing Elder can be found on our website at http://www.southridgechurch.ca/about/team/board_of_elders. Thanks so much for your continued involvement in this very important process in the life of our church family!

We're About »

Searching for timeless truth that's relevant today. Connecting with others in authentic ways. Making a practical difference in our society.

Southridge Community Church - a place to experience real life.

Contact Info »

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Office Hours:
8:30am - 4:30am
Tuesday to Friday

You'll find everything you need online at www.southridgechurch.ca.