

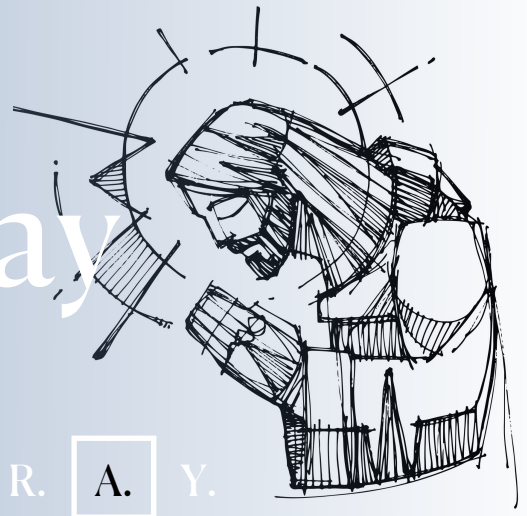
Independence Day

DISCUSSION GUIDE

July 4, 2021

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1/3- Looking Back

Start with prayer and/or worship (reading a Psalm, singing a song, giving thanks, etc.). Re-cast the vision (see example video at www.jesusisthevision.com), review obedience goals from the previous week, and ask how everybody is doing. Check-in question options:

- *Up/In/Out* – How are you doing in your three primary relational spheres? (Up: God. In: fellow believers and family. Out: unbelievers)
- *Highs/Lows*: What was your “high” and your “low” from the past week?

2/3- Looking to Jesus in the Present

Explore these Scripture passages together: Jeremiah 29:1-14 (also 1 Tim 2:1-2; Rom 13:1-8; Eph 2:19; Phil 3:20; 1 Pet 2:9-11)

- As the facilitator, first read the passages aloud and invite the other members of the group to just listen and take note of what stands out to them. You may want to read these more than once.
- Discuss the question: “what do we learn from these passages about who God is and what He does?”
- Discuss the question: “what do we learn from these passages about who we are and what we do?”
- Alternative question: “what do we learn from these passages about living as citizens of God's kingdom?”

3/3- Looking Forward

Ask Jesus how he wants you to respond (corporately and individually) to what you have heard and learned. You can also practice the following exercise:

- Sit quietly together in Jesus’ presence and ask yourself the question, “Does my current lifestyle (including my attitudes) reflect that I am a citizen of God's kingdom living in exile?” Pay special attention to whatever thoughts or feelings surface in your mind and heart, and remain open to whoever the Spirit may want to show you. When you are ready, ask Jesus if there are any areas of your life that need to be brought into realignment with his kingdom rule. After some time of listening and reflection, share your thoughts with one another as a group. End your time by praying together, asking Jesus for the grace to live faithfully as citizens of God's kingdom.