

2023-24 Aim Check-in

- Becoming disciples who make disciples, who make disciples.
 - Creating a community of faith that meaningfully engages our community of residence.
1. Since you last met as a H2H group, have you made any movement towards the aims we've set?
 2. How might we as a H2H group help support or encourage you towards these aims?

Discussion Questions Set #1

"Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:1-2).

In sermon, we discussed the converging ideas of foreigners, strangers and the disconnected as a sociological group.

1. What is the present cultural emphasis on these ideas? How do we handle such topics in our workplaces, schools and churches?
2. Discuss ideas of inclusion and diversity as they apply to the church's acceptance of foreigners, strangers and the disconnected in 2024.
3. In sermon, it was suggested that, specifically in 2024, Christ is calling us to fulfill in equal measure the call of Hebrew 13:1-2. Do you agree? What might it look like to meet the call to love one another as brothers and sisters as we show hospitality to strangers?

Discussion Questions Set #2

"The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God." (Leviticus 19:34)

Read Luke 4:14-30. In sermon, we discussed who this passage shows to us both the first-century cultural bias against the stranger that existed and Christ's willingness to ensure that such biases were addressed through His ministry.

1. Why do you think the Jews of Christ's day had such a violent reaction to Christ's words? Why was Christ's reference to the blessing of two non-Jews so offensive that the tide turned so quickly against Him?
2. What might be a similar "anger-provoking" attitude functioning within the church today?

Read Matthew 15:21-28. In sermon, it was suggested that here, Christ lays out a pattern for engagement with the stranger that could be replicated in 2024.

3. Discuss how you might ensure the following occurs in your approach to a stranger to the faith:
 - a. Being willing to risk some potential messiness in relating to a stranger
 - b. Engaging relationally, providing opportunity for expressed faith, rather than simply rejecting people as a foreigner, stranger and outsider.
 - c. Expressing truthfulness without pulling punches
 - d. Expressing a hospitable spirit that opens doors for an expression of great faith.
4. What barriers (personally, corporately) might exist today to engaging the stranger in the manner of Christ?

Discussion Questions Set #3

At the end of the sermon, cultural Christianity was addressed as a possible application of the material encountered in our texts.

1. What is cultural Christianity and how might it position us oddly for hospitality to strangers in the church?
2. Describe the pathway to inclusion in the church for a stranger to the faith today? How important might hospitality be in this process?