



Discussion Guide

Into the Word:

Have you ever been honored for anything? It could have been for a job well done or a significant contribution that you made to a cause. If yes, how did it make you feel?

Conversely have you ever honored someone else for something that they have done? Maybe you helped plan an honor or you may have even spoke at an event where someone was honored. How did you feel being part of this event? How do you think the person being honored felt about what you were doing?

Webster's dictionary says that to honor someone is to hold in high respect or to revere. In our modern world of social media, is there much honor anywhere?

Read Romans 12:10

God tells us to be devoted to each other and to honor others above ourselves.

- a. Paul is writing to believers in Rome. So he is instructing them that they should be devoted to and honor fellow believers. What are some ways that we as Christians have failed to honor each other?
- b. Using Romans 12:10 as a guide. Fill in these statements of how we can truly honor our fellow believers.

Assuming the _____ (rather than worst) about another's intentions
Being quick to look for the _____ in others and be willing to praise them
Taking the time to check out all the _____ before making any kind of judgment about a situation.
Refusing to _____ or belittle someone
Being concerned with the _____ of another rather than just yourself
Refusing to _____ about another believer with others

Read 1 Corinthians 12: 14-26

God wants us to honor those we think are less honorable. In fact, He wants us to bestow greater honor on those people.

- a. What do you think it means to treat those who are "less honorable ... with special honor" (v. 23)? What would that look like?

- b. Our vision as a church is to be a church where everyone can engage locally and globally with people as they come to know Jesus and to grow in Him AND we are biblically instructed to do this while bestowing great honor on these people. Why is that difficult for us sometimes and how can we achieve it?

Apply the Word

- a) Notice that our mission and vision is NOT to meet on Sunday mornings for an hour where we enjoy singing some songs, learning from the Scriptures, and fellowshiping with one another. If that was the case, the only important people would be those that plan and lead the Sunday morning services. NO, the mission and vision of Meadowdale, and every church, is to heal the broken-hearted out in the world, to give deliverance to the captives, to open the eyes of the blind, and to preach the good news to the poor and broken hearted. That starts with what we do on Sunday mornings and all our services then carries on outside the doors. That is the mission and that is truly honoring people. How would our congregation change if everyone understood and engaged in this mission and vision?
- b) In his marriage videos, Gary Smalley talks about what it means to truly honor someone. He has this broken down violin. The neck of the violin was hanging from the base by only the strings. Smalley hands the violin to the audience and asks them to look at it. There is nothing extraordinary about the instrument. As the violin is being passed, Smalley says, "Don't forget to look inside the base of the violin where you will see the name of the maker, a guy by the name of Stradivarius." At the sound of this name the audience collectively gasped with wonder. Smalley calls attention to their gasp and said when we see other people we should see stamped on their forehead "Stradivarius". He says each time we see each other there is a sense in which we should gasp with wonder and admiration.

God has called us to see His name stamped on the forehead of every individual that we come in contact with. This is what it means to honor another. It means to see and respect their value as a person. It means turning away from our own self-absorption to see the beauty and wonder God placed in another.

When we do that, the world will take notice. A political lobbying group is easy to overlook. Just another option in the entertainment world can be passed over. But when we love with honor, people will notice. They will want to know why and then we can introduce them to the Lover of their souls, their Savior.

Prayer Time-

Father, thank you for your love for us. Help us to see Your Name stamped on the head of everyone. A reminder that You loved this person, this imperfect person that may be so different from us, so much that You sent Your Son to die for them. Help us to honor each other above ourselves. Help us to truly embrace the mission and vision that You have given us. Amen.