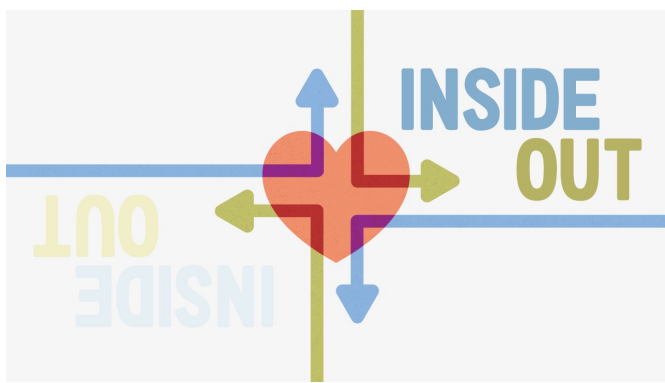


Look at Others From The Inside Out

Week of January 6, 2019

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.



Message Recap:

Read Mark 1:40-45

The book of Leviticus unpacks what you should do if you are a leper. Among other things, those who suffer from leprosy must tear their clothing, leave their hair uncombed, cover their mouth and call out “unclean.” They must also live in isolation. But here’s the problem: This approach is one that only looks on the outside. And just as the law only looks on the outside, the world also only looks on the outside. Do we do this too? Have you ever felt uncomfortable or ignored someone because of how they appeared on the outside? Jesus came to help us realize that we need to look beyond the outside. When he encounters a leper in Mark 1:40, the leper was begging to be healed. Like the leper, everyone wants to be noticed, not for what they are on the outside, but for who they *really* are. Jesus was willing to reach out and touch the unclean. He was willing to go the extra mile. He sees beyond outside appearances and he sees the need in our lives. He is asking for us to do the same for the people we encounter.

Pray

Jesus, open my eyes so I can better see what is inside of the people around me instead of judging them because of what I see on the outside. Forgive me for the times when I judged and didn’t show your love because I was looking at appearances.

Getting Started

- What are you doing differently in 2019?
- What are some symptoms of a life without Jesus?

Digging Deeper

1. Have you ever felt isolated and alone? How did you deal with that? How did change come about?
2. What are some of the ways Jesus can heal what hurts you?
3. Think about how you felt when you were isolated or alone. How do you think people who are isolated or alone today feel?
4. Read Matthew 1:40-45. What was so incredible about this healing story? How can it inspire you to reach out and touch those who are undesirable?
5. How could it help you have a different approach to others when you strip away the outside and focus on the inside?
6. Who is someone that you judge from the outside? Who makes you “prickly”? Have you asked God to help you see this person from the inside out, instead of just from the outside? How could God help you love that person the way Jesus loved the leper?
7. Is God calling you to go the extra mile to help someone? Share your thoughts with your group.

Living Jesus

Jesus was able to see what’s on the inside because he was deliberate about sitting with Father and filling up what was inside. We need to do what Jesus did - go to the Father first to get filled with love, and then you are equipped to let the love of the Father flow out to others. Sit with him. Feel his love. Then, go out, looking into the hearts of others and love them until they see the love of Jesus. This is how we apply living and loving from the inside.

What’s Your Story?

Who is God calling you to see from the inside instead of the outside?

Encourage others by sharing your story! >> **Go to SevernRunner.info and choose the Stories tile. Then follow the link provided to share your own story; we will even connect you with a writer to help you tell your Jesus story.**