



## Sermon Discussion Questions

Sunday, January 8, 2012

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Series: Opportunity Knocks

### **Sermon: Belong**

#### **Note to Group Leaders:**

*Happy New Year! One of the changes you will see in sermon discussion questions is I've been asked to add my own thoughts on some of the questions being asked. So, I've done that to keep assisting you as you lead others. Some questions I'll just let you know why I'm asking that question. Again, use the ones that work for your group. Enjoy!*

#### **Introduce it:**

Who are the people and/or places that you believe you can completely be you-no hiding, no performing, no faking? Why? Where are places you feel that you can't be yourself? Why?

\*Goal of this question is simply to get the group to identify with where they can be themselves and why. Opportunity just to get to know more about one another.

#### **Revisit it: learn the passage preached on.**

The passage we studied today has two critical parts. To understand the NT passage you have to notice what is going on in the OT passage.

#### **Read Exodus 34:29-35**

**The story here is Moses goes up to the top of the mountain to get the word of God and then comes and gives that word to the Israelites, then back to the mountain and back down again. When does Moses put a veil over his face and when does he take it off?**

\*Point of this question and the next few are to help the group see that Moses is not putting the veil on his face because the people are afraid of him. He puts it on AFTER speaking to them and doesn't take it off again until he goes to talk with God to be completely unveiled before God. IF it were to keep them from being afraid of him, he would have put it on before speaking to them.

**Why would Moses take the veil off when speaking to God?**

**What was the response of the people to Moses when they saw his radiant face?**

**Why would he put it on after speaking to the people? Why not before speaking to the people?**

#### **Read 2 Corinthians 3:7-18**

**Paul talks about a ministry that brings death in verse 7. What was this ministry that was engraved in stone, that Moses brought with glory?**

\*Paul is talking about the Law-the 10 commandments.

**How does Paul continue to define the ministry that brought death?**

\*It condemns people, it's glory fades-goes away. The purpose of the Law was to show man his sin-to condemn and to judge-not to bring salvation. It's purpose was to show us our sin and our need of a savior.

**How does Paul contrast this ministry with the ministry of the Spirit?**

\*it's even more glorious. It brings righteousness, right standing before God, not condemnation, it will not go away but it's glory will last forever.

**Why does Paul tell us that Moses actually put the veil over his face? Why would he not want the Israelites to see his radiance fading?**

\*He actually put the veil on to keep the Israelites from seeing his face lose it's radiance. If they saw that, they would question his leadership of them and it would look to them like he didn't have his act together. So, he had to hide from them.

**Paul goes on to describe that when we live under the law, we have a veil over our hearts-we are constantly trying to prove our worth, our value, earn our salvation. He then tells us what happens when we stop trying to earn our salvation but "turn to the Lord". What happens when we turn to the Lord?**

\*the veil is taken away; we have freedom; we reflect the Lord's glory; we are being transformend; this is from the Lord.

*Use it: don't just learn the passage but use it.*

**Because of this, we can be ourselves and not hide in front of one another. How does this passage challenge you to approach community group differently?**

\*just a time to hear folks talk about the group.

**Share as a group what allows you to feel that the group is a safe place to not hide behind a veil?**

**For those that are married, write down 1 or 2 things that you will share with your spouse tonight about what will allow you to not hide behind a veil in your marriage.**

Paul gives us practical application to this in verse 4:2. Read this passage as a closer to say, this is what it means to live in community with one another. Let's challenge ourselves as a group to do this better.

***Remember it: memorize a verse that helps you to remember and use it.***

**Memorize 2 Corinthians 3:16**

***"But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away."***

**Write this on a piece of paper and put it on your mirror and in your car. Share this verse with your children to help them begin thinking about their own gifts! Begin now helping them see the importance of not hiding behind things they are ashamed of. Help them to see what Jesus' death has freed them from.**