



# Sermon Discussion Guide

FEBRUARY 2, 2020 • THE GOSPEL OF INDWELLING • STEVE DENEFF  
GENESIS 3:9-13; MATTHEW 8:1-13; GALATIANS 3:26-28

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## PRAY

**LEADER:** “As I read Matthew 8:1-13 aloud, take note of any word or short phrase that sticks out to you. After I read, we’ll sit in silence for a short time, and then I’ll prompt you to share that word or phrase with the group. Hear the Word of the LORD:”

**Read Matthew 8:1-13** *aloud...slowly*

*(give people time to be silent and listen – maybe 60 seconds)*

**LEADER:** “What word or phrase stuck out to you?”

*Give everyone time to respond with a word or a phrase. Encourage people not to explain, just share the word or phrase. Pray a **brief** thanksgiving to God for speaking through the Scripture.*

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## ENCOURAGE

What encouragement did we receive from God through this Scripture?

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## REFLECT AND CORRECT

Did God challenge your actions, thoughts, or dispositions with this passage? If so, share this with the group.

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## TEACH

### **Teaching Summary**

Why is there so much division among us? The walls that divide us are not between different races or generations but in every human heart. The good news is that in Christ these walls come tumbling down as God forms us all into one new Person.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What are some of the major boundaries keeping people around you divided?
2. How has being a part of the community of God helped you learn who you are in Christ?
3. What are some of the characteristics of someone who lives with the identity of Christ?
4. What are some characteristics of Christ’s identity the need to become apparent in your life?

### **Transformation Questions**

1. What do you think God is saying to you?
2. What is keeping you from doing this?
3. If you were to do it, what might be a good first step?
4. Who will you tell? Or who will you ask to help you?

## GOSPELING SCENARIO

*What are some of the ways people in your life feel divided? How can the gospel bring unity to those situations? Discuss with your group what role you might play in living the gospel in those situations.*

*If you can't talk about those you know, use the scenario below to start a conversation with your group about how to share the gospel of unity.*

When Jenny asks to have coffee with you, you have a sneaking suspicion you know why. Your friends Jenny and Tim have been married for 12 years. You love them both and have spent many times with their young family for New Year's Eve game nights and Fourth of July fireworks in the park. However, recently, you notice things seem a bit strained between them.

"Tim is always working," she says to you when you ask how she's doing. "I never see him, and he doesn't seem to care that I have to do all the work at home *and* drive the kids everywhere *and* cook and clean and take care of the dog." Her body sags in the coffee shop chair.

"Have you tried talking to him about it," you ask, trying to help.

"It doesn't matter if I do! When I try to bring it up, he doesn't listen. If we even begin talking about it, we manage to start fighting. This week, I asked if he could help fold the clean laundry piling up in baskets around our room, and he said he couldn't because he had work to do. But he just went into his study and watched his favorite sitcom! I just don't know how much longer I can keep doing this."

Later, after your coffee meeting with Jenny, you get lunch with Tim, hoping to hear his side of the story.

When you ask how he and Jenny are doing, he shrugs and says everything is fine.

"Really?" you ask. "You both seemed a little off when I saw you last."

His shoulders slump in response. "Oh yeah, that. It's nothing. Jenny's just a little upset because she thinks I could do more around the house and with the kids. She doesn't get that I have to work all the hours I do just so we can continue living in our house! All she does is complain! But when I'm home, all I want is to chill out because I'm working so much. It's not my fault my job doesn't pay me more so I can work less. I can't seem to make her be grateful for the work I do to make our lives comfortable."

### SCENARIO QUESTIONS

1. What are Tim and Jenny's struggles and what is keeping them divided?
2. In this specific scenario, what would you say to Tim and Jenny?
3. From a Gospel perspective, how might you navigate ongoing conversations with Tim and Jenny? How will you be with them?
4. What did Jesus teach that might be hard for Jenny and Tim to believe and how could they try that for 30 days?