



STUDY GUIDE

June 12, 2022

Message Series:
Message Title:
Teaching Pastor:

Oh Brother
No Favorites
Angie Frame

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

Rapid fire favorites:

- Favorite day of the week?
- Favorite holiday?
- Favorite junk food?
- Favorite childhood TV show?
- Favorite season?

Pray:

Dear Lord, we praise Your name. Thank you for the opportunity to learn from You and each other. We know that Your ways are higher than our ways. Our biases can corrupt our hearts so we must first seek You. Forgive us when our favoritism ignores Your grace and Your standards. Guide us as we learn now. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Get Started:

- Share a time you bonded with an individual or a group of people after you initially felt you didn't have much in common. What did you learn in the process?

Read Galatians 3:23-29.

- What was Paul trying to get his readers to understand? How does it relate to us now?

"When we abstain from showing favoritism, our churches get bigger as more people feel more comfortable investigating their questions about God and Jesus and life. We learn, or learn again, that God isn't just for those of us who are already here. He's not just for the people who look like they have it all together. No, he is and always has been the God who created the whole world, who loves the whole world, who died for the whole world. He made every person, and he can interact with whomever he wants to whenever and however he wants to. We don't get to put him in a box or limit him. Yes, I want God to work in me and in our church. But he can also work in you and the church down the street, and the people who don't look like me, who don't dress or eat or talk like me. God can work in the person who's never been to church, even the person who's not sure about God. You know why? Because he's God. That's his prerogative." -Pastor Angie Frame

- Take a few minutes to silently reflect the following questions:
Who might you need to value less? Who might you need to value more? Share if comfortable.

Watch and Discuss Video: (running time 8:20 minutes)

"One of our core values here is that we're Accepting of All People. We're accepting—which doesn't mean that we agree about everything, just that we accept. All people— period." -Pastor Angie Frame

Read Romans 3:22-24.

- How does this scripture help you to accept all people? What might you need to change about how you interact with someone you may not agree with so they can feel accepted?

Read James 2:1-13.

- What are some of the motivations behind favoritism? How serious is showing partiality? Train yourself out of favoritism. This week at church or another place, instead of going straight to your normal group of friends to chat, find someone new whom you may not generally talk with. Reach out to them and be friendly.

Reflect and Commit:

Read James 2:14-26.

- What impacts you the most in this passage? Does anything surprise you?

"God gave Peter the vision when he was at home, but the vision didn't become a realization until Peter entered a home he wasn't supposed to be in with people he wasn't supposed to be with. That's when he got it—when he glanced around at the large gathering of people, when he looked into each face. That's when he realized that every single one of them was created by God, in his image, and that they had value just because of that. That's when he connects the dots that the vision wasn't really about animals; it was about these people in this home with him. Proximity matters. As long as Peter stayed with people who looked, talked, ate, dressed, and believed like him, it was easy to think of those people over there as impure or unclean. It was easy to be part of the favorite people and allow them to be the victims of favoritism. But then Peter followed God's nudge in his heart to go and be with these people. He learned that it's altogether different when you're standing among them, not against them. When it's "we" instead of "they." The way to counteract valuing people too little is to enter their world. That's what Peter did, and it's what we do, like, when we Do Good." -Pastor Angie Frame

- Reminisce over a time you or your small group did a Do Good project here at PCC or share a time you helped others through volunteering, missions, etc. How did it affect those you helped? How did it change you? What is God putting in your heart to do to help others next, either individually or as a group. Brainstorm and make a goal.

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:37b

Pray:

Dear Lord, we can be so blinded by external conditions allowing the world to distract us and take our focus off of serving You and living according to Your Word. We need Your help in recognizing ways we are guilty of favoritism. We seek to be transformed by Your Spirit, to walk in Your ways, to go and do as Jesus said, which points others to You. We pray all of this in Jesus' powerful name. Amen.