

Week 3: Radical Inclusion

Coaching Video: bit.ly/FComWeek3

INTRODUCTION (15 MIN)

Welcome (5 min)

Last week we discussed how selfless love is at the foundation of the flourishing community.

Share in Pairs: Did you do the action step(s) from last time? What did God show you? How was God at work in you?

Vision + Objective (2 min)

The value for this week is radical inclusion. Our community should be one of welcome, where all can be seen, heard, and honored in the fullness of who God has made them to be.

Ice Breaker (8 min)

In pairs, share experiences of being the “new” person. How did it feel? In what ways did you feel welcomed or out of place?

Pray to transition.

BIBLICAL REFLECTION (25 MIN)

Passage Background

- The early church grows despite persecution, and the good news of Jesus is reaching Gentiles (Acts 10-11). Jewish believers disagree on whether Gentiles should be circumcised, an outward sign of their identity as the chosen people of God (Genesis 17).

Read Acts 15:1-11

Observation:

- What is the conflict, and what is at stake?
- What are God’s actions in the passage? How does that compare/contrast to the various leaders’ actions and assertions?

Interpretation:

- What stands out to you about Peter's comments? What key words or phrases get at the heart of his message?
- What do you learn about God's intent for his people from this passage?

Application:

- What are the unspoken expectations of your community that might be barriers for new people or those exploring faith? Consider this question from a racial/ethnic lens. What costs might non-majority students bear?
- What challenges or inspires you from today’s discussion?

RESPONSE (20 MIN)

Activity (12 min)

To truly be a welcoming community, we need to better understand one another. Cultural Values give language to principles, beliefs, or norms of a community (and are often, but not always shaped by nationality or ethnicity). Pass out the Cultural Values sheet. For each value pairing, mark yourself along the continuum for how strongly you identify with one or the other.

Share:

- What do you notice about your own values and that of the community’s?
- Where are potential places of conflict or tension based on varying cultural values? What are some opportunities?

Action Steps (5 min)

- **Collective:** Brainstorm ways your next Large Group or InterVarsity gathering can be more welcoming and inclusive. Connect with the leaders of those spaces and volunteer to implement 1-2 of those ideas. Or, host a community potluck, and invite friends! Ask everyone to bring a dish from their youth/family/heritage. During the meal, have each person to share about their dish.
- **Personal:** How could you help students from different communities feel welcome and included? Identify one thing you will do at your next gathering to make a person from a different community feel welcome and included.

Prayer (3 min)