

# Aftermath

## *A Church Where Everyone Belongs (January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021)*

### PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- You can watch the sermon online [HERE](#). **Then make sure to watch our [Special Series Video!](#)**
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

### DISCUSSION

**Opening Prayer:** (1-2 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's a suggestion of how your group can invite God into your time together.*

Thank the Father for loving us so much that He came to us in the person of Jesus to offer Himself as a sacrifice on our behalf while we were still sinners! Pray that as we navigate the chaotic waters of our cultural moment that we would humbly listen and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we seek to love one another just as Jesus loved us by dying for us on the cross. Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to remind us of the victory we have over sin in Jesus Christ! Finally, pray that as we look toward the horizon of a New Year that the Holy Spirit would search our hearts and continue to transform us into the likeness of His son!

**Discussion:** (45-60 minutes)

#### What's Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Danny brought us into the fourth week of our series titled *Aftermath*. Pastor Danny focused our attention to *1 Corinthians 12:4-26* in order to discuss how we can become a diverse church! Pastor Danny uses this passage to suggest that in the church of Jesus, there is no one who does not belong and there is no one who is not needed. Therefore, he challenges the church to intentionally devote extra care and attention to the folks we are tempted to believe we do not need!

**“Jesus gave specific honor and dignity to the parts of the church we tend to undervalue so that we'd realize we're all equal.” – Pastor Danny Strange**

## Suggested Questions

**Check-In: Icebreaker** – When you think about the word “diversity” what comes to your mind?

**\*\*NEW\*\* Series Video:** Each week, a collection of ministry leaders will be recording a video that discusses this week’s sermon and how it may apply to our lives according to each demographic represented here at 3Crosses church! We recommend that you either encourage your group to watch the video *before* the meeting, or the video can make for a great opening activity for your group!



### **Objective #1: Identify your personal experience with diversity in the church.**

*Primary Texts: 1 Corinthians 12:1-31* – Pastor Danny’s sermon challenged us to become a diverse church where everyone belongs. He walks through these texts about spiritual gifts and the analogy of the body to showcase that everyone belongs, everyone is needed, and extra care needs to be devoted to those who we believe we do not need. **(A) In your opinion, what would you say makes diversity at 3crosses a challenge? (B) What uniqueness do you think God has brought to our community through your experiences (personally and spiritually).**

### **Objective #2: Evaluate your current involvement with the area of diversity.**

*Selected Passages and Themes: Ephesians 2:14 (Jesus is our Peace); John 13:34-35 (Love like Jesus); Genesis 16:1-16 (Checking our Priorities) Matthew 10:1-4 (Diverse Disciples)* – In the roundtable discussion video, each of our ministry leaders spoke about different obstacles that we may face toward becoming a diverse church body! **When you look at your surrounding community, do you see a network that reflects diverse people and diverse concerns? Share the reasons for your answer with your group!**

### **Objective #3: Commit to a next step that will lead us closer to a more diverse community!**

*Primary Texts: Ephesians 2:1-22; Revelation 7:9-14* – Finally, Pastor Danny challenges us to take a look at the last 10 interactions we have had and our attitude toward people that are different than us in order to gauge our heart in the area of diversity. While these passages help us remember our unity in Jesus, we are also challenged that diversity does take intentional effort. **How is God calling you to enhance the diversity of your community in the year 2021?**

## **Closing Prayer:** (5-10 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.*

Thank our Heavenly Father for sending His son at the perfect time! Praise the Son for emptying himself by becoming a human so that he might give up his own life so that we could be free from the bondage of our spiritual enemy! Ask that the Holy Spirit would mold our hearts and continue to equip us to live, love, and forgive like Jesus. Finally, pray that we as a church would have the courage and boldness to proclaim the gospel of Jesus as we continue to strive for your example of humility and remember your exalted status as Lord over all things

## **THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

**-Stay up to date with Coronavirus Ministry Opportunities:** Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to [3Crosses.org/coronavirus](https://3crosses.org/coronavirus) . If you or anyone in your group is looking to serve food in our pantry, access spiritual care, or seek financial assistance, you can find all you need at [3Crosses.org/neighborhood](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood)

**-Aftermath Series:** Each week, we will be recording a message that includes a collection of our ministry leaders and helps explain this week's study guide! *Tune in at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday Nights* each week for the premier of the video or check it out anytime on our [YouTube channel!](#)

**-Group Prayer:** This week, pray that your group would have specific opportunities to “run into” people with diverse experiences. Take some time with the Lord to evaluate your own heart and ask Him to provide more opportunities to uncover different areas of personal growth!

**-Further Reading:** *Mark 1* Next week, we will be taking a deeper look at the intentional movements of Jesus. We will explore the driving force behind Jesus' decision to say yes to certain opportunities and no to others!

**-Community Groups 2021:** For more information about joining a group, leading a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org)