



Sermon Discussion Guide

Introduction to Paradox - Tim Knipp

February 21, 2021

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key questions by bolding them**.
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!

Tip of the week

Question writers: if you would like to use this space to share a creative idea about an activity small groups could do together, or a way to make their conversation engaging, add it here. If you don't have one, feel free to delete this section.



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
1. Is anyone excited about exploring paradoxes in our faith and why? Is anybody uncomfortable about this and if so why do you think that is the case?

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
 - **Exodus 3:1-6**
 - **John 6:53-69**
 - **Proverbs 26:4-5**
2. Read Exodus 3:1-6. Why do you think God used the burning bush to get Moses's attention as opposed to some other sign?
 3. Read John 6:53-69. Imagine being in the disciple's shoes hearing this for the first time. What questions would you have about what Jesus was saying? What tension would you feel inside of you? Talk about the different responses to this tension of Moses/and Jesus disciples who stayed with him versus those who left him.
 4. Read Proverbs 26:4-5. Do you think that this is a paradox or a contradiction? What is the author trying to communicate about dealing with fools? How is it possible to follow the advice of both of these verses?



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Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
5. What are some common paradoxes in our society that create tension within individuals and between individuals? What are some common responses to this tension that you observe?
 6. What are some examples of Paradoxes in the Christian Faith that can either attract people towards Jesus or repel them? Why do you think that that is the case?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
7. Try to think of a paradox that creates a tension inside of you and tempts you to avoid it. Could this possibly be a paradox that God is using to draw you near to him? What is one thing that you could do this week to explore this tension with curiosity?

Time of Prayer