

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

The After Party Message Series

The Disciple
For the week of October 27

Choose Kingdom over Tribe

⁵¹ As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵² He sent messengers ahead to a Samaritan village to prepare for his arrival. ⁵³ But the people of the village did not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, "Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?" ⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them. (Luke 9:51-55).

In 1954, social psychologists Muzafer and Carolyn Sherif conducted the Robbers Cave experiment to study group conflict. They divided 22 boys into two teams, the Rattlers and the Eagles, at a summer camp. Initially, the boys bonded within their groups, unaware of the other team's existence. In the second week, the Sherifs introduced competitive contests between the teams, with prizes for the winners. The competition quickly escalated into intense rivalry. The conflict worsened with accusations of cheating and sabotage, leading to vandalism and theft. The boys were similar in age, race, socioeconomic background, and family structure and the prizes were trivial, yet the situation nearly resulted in a physical brawl before the experiment was halted.

1. Reflecting on the Sherif experiment, how do you think group identities form in our lives today? What are some tribes or communities you identify with, and how do they influence your perspectives?
2. Why do you think humans have an inherent tendency to root for their tribe's success while wanting to see others fail? Can you identify situations in your life where you've seen this rivalry play out?
3. How do passages like Jeremiah 17:9, Ecclesiastes 7:20, and 1 John 1:8 speak to the human condition regarding tribalism? In what ways can understanding our brokenness help us navigate our interactions with others?
4. Read Luke 10:25-37. Who in your life might be seen as an "enemy" or "other," yet needs compassion and care?
5. What does it look like to prioritize our identity as followers of Jesus over our political affiliations? Have you ever faced a similar situation? How did you respond?
6. We've been discussing how the posture of a disciple is one who embodies both hope and humility. How can we cultivate these qualities in our daily lives, especially during divisive times?



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