

WEEK 9: INTACT INFLUENCE

1 Peter 2:11-12

1. THE FIRST LIFE WE SHOULD SEEK TO CHANGE IS OUR OWN
2. TO TAKE PEOPLE WHERE THEY NEED TO GO, WE NEED TO MEET THEM WHERE THEY ARE
3. FAITHFULNESS IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY, RESULTS ARE GOD'S

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What part of the teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why is it important that we look at our own lives before trying to change the lives of others? How might this affect the way you treat other people?
3. Has someone ever tried to offer you advice that they were unwilling to apply to their own life? What was that like?
4. Because we all impact someone's life either positively or negatively, who do you desire to impact and how?
5. What is God putting His finger on in your life that needs to change for you to have a positive impact on others?
6. Are you a friend to people who do not share your beliefs? What does this look like in your life? What are some challenges you face when trying to befriend someone with different beliefs? How do we find the balance between grace and truth as we interact with non-Christians?
7. Have you ever considered the idea that Jesus said the "gates of hell" will not prevail against the Church? What do you think this means? What should it look like?
8. This week Ryan talked about "over desires" that exist in our lives. It's these desires that Peter warns us about. They can be otherwise good things that we make "God things" in our lives. What are some of the most common "over desires" that people put in the place of God in their lives? If someone was looking into your life, what would they say is competing with God? What is your plan to change this?
9. Ryan spoke of Christianity as being an outward facing belief system. What did he mean by this? In our day, what are some examples of how churches are inward focused and what are some examples of how churches are outward focused?
10. Jesus was accused of being a friend of sinners. It seemed that sinners were more drawn to Jesus than the religious leaders of His day. Why do you think that sinners were drawn to Jesus? Why do you think the religious leaders opposed Him? When we look at the Church today in America, who do we see being drawn to it? Who do we see being drawn to our church?
11. Ryan's last point was that faithfulness is our responsibility, but the results are entirely God's. What responsibilities did Ryan refer to when he made this point? How does this apply to the real-life situations we encounter?

