

## Guess Who's Coming To Church

### Five Surprise Invitees

1. Persecuting **PRIESTS**.

Acts 4:1-3 & 6:7

2. Hated **SAMARITANS**.

Luke 9:51-55/ Acts 1:8/ Acts 8:1-25

3. An Ethiopian **EUNUCH**.

Deuteronomy 23:1/ Isaiah 56:1-8/ Acts 8:26-40

4. A sworn **ENEMY** named Saul.

Acts 7:55-8:3/ Acts 9:1-22

5. A **GENTILE** pig named Cornelius.

Acts 10:1-48

### Saul's Story

Acts 9:1-22

### Lessons To Take Home

1. We don't get to pick our **BROTHERS** and **SISTERS**.

Isaiah 64:6 & Romans 3:23/ Matthew 10:2-4/ Jonah 1-4

2. No one is too **BAD** or too **BROKEN** to join God's family.

Acts 8:3/ Acts 9:15/ 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

3. We are supposed to **GIVE** to others what God **GAVE** to us.

Romans 5:10/ 1 Corinthians 6:9-11/ Matthew 18:21-35 & Matthew 7:1-2

4. The only way to think and act like this is with a **RENEWED MIND**.

Romans 12:1-2

## Food for Thought

For the week of June 28, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study & discussion)

*In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have adjusted the Food for Thought format so the questions can be used for group discussion as well as personal study and reflection.*

### WHAT'S YOUR HIGHLIGHT?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Think of a person who has hurt you, betrayed you or left you fearful. What would be your first response if you saw that person walk into church on the weekend?

- (a) What are they doing here?
- (b) No, not them. I know what they have done.
- (c) That's never going to last.
- (d) Wow, the Lord must be doing something in their life.
- (e) Praise God! I'm glad they're here.
- (f) Other

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend Larry talked about how we don't get to pick our brothers and sisters. The prophet Jonah is an example of someone who wanted to keep his enemies out of the family of God. As you read Jonah's story, what are some possible reasons Jonah was so angry at the Ninevites? What didn't he understand about God that caused his anger?

What are some hurdles you might face in wanting your "enemies" to know God and receive His love and forgiveness?

How might remembering Titus 3:3-7 and 1 Corinthians 1:26-30 help you overcome those hurdles and welcome others into the family of God?

#### **Titus 3:3-7 *New International Version (NIV)***

<sup>3</sup>At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. <sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

#### **1 Corinthians 1:26-30 *New International Version (NIV)***

<sup>26</sup>Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup>God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup>It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

In Matthew 5:44, Jesus tells His disciples to pray for those who persecute them. If you were to pray for someone who is your “enemy” as Larry defined it in his message, what would you pray for them? (Write your prayer below).

**Matthew 5:44 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>44</sup>But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...

2. Larry mentioned the essential role of a renewed mind when it comes to loving our enemies. Renewing our minds involves focusing on what God desires and thinking like Christ rather than like the world, culture or our natural way of thinking. How do these verses reinforce the idea of being like Christ by renewing our minds?

**Romans 8:5-6 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup>Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

**Ephesians 4:22-24 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup>You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup>to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

**Colossians 3:7-11 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup>You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup>But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup>Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Is there an aspect of God’s character you can set your mind on that will help you to better love someone who is difficult for you to love?

3. Think of two or three people you view as being in the wrong about something. Is your response to them more like Jonah’s response to the Ninevites or Ananias’ response to Saul?

Is there something you can do this week to respond more like Ananias to these people?



# NORTH COAST SUMMER SERIES & CLASSES

Check out our website for updates as more details will be added in the weeks to come. [northcoastchurch.com/classes](http://northcoastchurch.com/classes)

## ***Summer Study Series***

We have three incredible virtual events lined up this summer by each of our teaching pastors! You will be able to watch these free classes as they stream at the times listed below on our Facebook page and YouTube Channel. They will also be available on our website on the dates listed below so you can view them when convenient. No registration required.

- **The Only Legacy That Really Matters: *Parenting for the Long-Haul*** with Dr. Larry Osborne, Friday, July 17 at 7pm
- **Is God Evil?** with Pastor Christopher Hilken, Friday, August 14 at 7pm
- **An Open Conversation About RACE. Part 1** with Pastor Chris Brown, now available to watch at [northcoastchurch.com/conversations](http://northcoastchurch.com/conversations)

## ***Summer Classes – Register for these classes online at [northcoastchurch.com/classes](http://northcoastchurch.com/classes)***

We are putting together a great collection of virtual classes and webinars on a variety of topics that will be offered throughout the summer. Here are some of the classes we have planned:

- **Preparing for Marriage:** Mondays, June 29 – August 3
- **S.H.A.P.E – Helping You Discover God’s Purpose for Your Life:** Wednesday, July 8
- **Finding Balance through COVID and Everyday Life:** Monday, July 13
- **Parents of Young Kids Parenting through Pandemic:** Wednesday, July 22
- **Parents of Teens Parenting through Pandemic:** Thursday, July 23
- **Self-Leadership:** Thursday, August 6

*Check our website for many more classes to be scheduled soon.*

## ***Summer Connection Intro Life Groups***

New to North Coast or never been in a Life Group? Curious what being part of a Life Group is all about? Summer Connection Intro Life Groups will start **Thursday, July 9** and meet for three weeks. This is a great opportunity to find out what Life Groups are like with minimum commitment. Register at [northcoastchurch.com/classes](http://northcoastchurch.com/classes)