

Questions for small groups

Who is excluded/included by God?

Bible:

How do you feel about the fact that people were excluded in the covenant of God and at various parts of the bible?

What does it mean for you to say that God includes everyone, or that Jesus includes everyone?

Discuss the difference between exclusion for moral reasons (this thing is sinful, it can't be part of us) and exclusion for community reasons (this is not part of our culture/we don't take part in this)?

- Is that distinction helpful or confusing?

Does the verse in Galatians 3 – no Jew no Greek, etc -erase all other rules about holiness and purity?

Community:

What community/church ideas have we inherited that might seem like boundaries to outsiders?

Are these positive or negative?

Are there any boundaries that you think it is ok to have in church, or places where it is ok to 'exclude' someone?

If so what might these be, and how might you explain them to people outside our community?

How might we want to define 'holiness' today - for our church or for our own lives?

- What does holiness look or feel like?
- Is it about bodies, emotions, beliefs?
- How does it get shown in public, can people tell we/you are holy? Should they be able to?