

# The Waters We Swim In

## GETTING STARTED

*We get so used to the world we live in. Day in, day out; we breathe in its air and swim in its waters. But like the proverbial frog in the pot, rarely do we think about the temperature of what we are swimming in.*

*The world invites us to swim in its waters, but the Gospel calls us to live lives that are distinctly different from the world around us. Different in values; different in belief; different in who we serve and what we love.*

*In this series we will examine 6 cultural norms that the world invites us to embrace in contrast to the Gospel realities that Jesus calls us to embody.*

## KEYS TO A GREAT DISCUSSION:

**\*Best Practice Suggestions: Reading the following “Guardrails” will help your conversations stay on the tracks.**

**Guardrail #1: Show Grace-** Believe it or not, topics such as race, politics, and gender can be challenging for everyone. Give each other grace and the benefit of the doubt—it will go a long way. Embrace discomfort as an opportunity for growth, acknowledging that challenging conversations can lead to deeper understanding and connection.

**Guardrail #2: Practice Respect-** Respect confidentiality within the group, ensuring that what is shared remains within the confines of the discussion.

**Guardrail #3: Have a Posture of Humility**-This is a chance for us to understand culture, how it influences us, and how we can live in this world in a faithful way. It has much more to do with us and our response to the "waters we swim in" than it does with critiquing society. In short, "work on you."

**Guardrail #4: Go to Scripture**-Scripture is the Word of God. It is powerful, living, and the final and ultimate authority. Refer to it often, trust in it in all areas, and seek to apply it to your life.

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpack its meaning.



Have someone in your group read ***Romans 6:1-23***

- What words do you see often repeated in this section? How does this help you to understand the primary point being made?
- According to Romans 6 what is the purpose, meaning and depiction of Baptism?
- How does understanding that we are no longer enslaved to sin affect the way we live?
- What does Paul mean in 6:16-18 when he contrasts being slaves to sin versus being slaves to obedience?
- What is your understanding of Romans 6:23 and why is it considered an important truth found in scripture?

## GETTING PRACTICAL

1. What about this week's scripture or message stood out to you?
2. How can our misunderstanding and misuse of freedom ultimately result in less fulfillment, peace, and joy? Why doesn't "Doing whatever we want" truly satisfy us?
3. How do the loving boundaries set by God contribute to experiencing greater peace within our freedom? How can we support each other in embracing and living within these boundaries?