

# 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 beliefs; 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 track.**

**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** 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 *Acts 2:37-41*

1. Context: What happened before this part of the passage that helps us understand it better?
2. What did Peter tell the people to do when they asked how they should respond to the Gospel message?
3. What promise is made in the passage?
4. What were the people's response to the challenge and promises they were given?
5. What happened in later chapters as a result of the people's actions after this part of the passage?

## GETTING PRACTICAL

1. Have you noticed that talking openly about sharing your faith has become something people avoid or feel uncomfortable about in our culture?
2. Talking openly about our faith can be tough. What do you think stops most people from sharing their faith?
3. How can we show others that our faith is important to us in everyday life? Can you think of any ways you could do this in your own daily routine?
4. What is the benefit of sharing our faith openly? What is the risk of not doing so?
5. Where would you like to improve in this area? What actions could you start taking in the next few weeks to make progress?