

“The World is not Your Home”

Series: Different

Read: 1 Peter 1: 1, 6-7, Matthew 13: 3-6

James 1: 2-3, John 16: 33

- Read 1 Peter 1
- Is it necessarily a bad thing to be called “*different?*” Does it upset you to be called different?
- Peter writes this letter to the “exiles,” or as my personal Bible translation says, the “strangers in the world.” Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like a stranger in your group of friends, or in your community, or in the world, because of your faith? Explain.
- Have you ever looked back on a situation, and thought you **should** have made yourself different because of your faith?
 - If you had acted in accordance with your faith, what impact would it have had on you, or on others?

The concept of a “false faith” is a scary one. We all want to believe that we are model Christians. The truth is, we all fall short of God’s calling on our lives, at the very least from time to time. Discuss with your group the following 3 “false faiths.”

- **Inherited faith**, is the concept that you are a “Christian” because mom was, and grandma was, or maybe because “that’s the way I was raised,” not because of any personal commitment, decision, or action. How have we fallen in and out of this area throughout our walk?
 - This is not exclusive to Christianity. Many of us fall into this trap about politics, musical preference, types of cars/trucks we like, idea of good vacation. Where did your preferences start/come from?
- **Shallow faith** is common. Many people claim the name of Christ, yet haven’t set foot in church in years, haven’t opened up and read their Bible in decades, and haven’t *ever* been a member of a small group. What are the dangers of claiming Christ without backing your faith up with study, and an effort to gain knowledge and relationship?
- **Conditional faith** is dangerous. If you love Jesus “as long as things go your way,” but when they don’t you attack or ignore him, you have to ask yourself “Who is Jesus to me?” Having said that, we all fall into a version of this. When things are great... we worship, we tithe, we pray. When things are tough... we simply don’t. What steps can we take to ensure that we put God first, regardless of our human circumstance?
 - Why is it so important to build this pattern of behavior in ourselves?
- There are many other types of “false faith.” “Me-focused faith” where we use faith to get what we want out of God and church, “God and Country faith” where Christianity exists to serve the USA, “Crisis du jour faith” where the purpose of Christianity is to react to whatever immediate social crisis is happening, “foolproof faith” where you’ve got everything figured out. Discuss with the group if/when you have had issues with any of these or others, and how we protect ourselves from falling victim to them.