



SERMON: Embracing Jesus

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SPEAKER: Pastor Jeremy

CORE SCRIPTURE: [Matthew 22:37-40](#)

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY

In this sermon, Pastor Jeremy introduced the new series “Why We’re Here” by focusing on Cornerstone’s Vision Statement: **“Embracing the Jesus who embraces the world.”** The sermon highlighted the power of an embrace, both in human relationships and in our relationship with Jesus. It emphasized that embracing Jesus means loving God and others, as Jesus taught in Matthew 22:37-40. The sermon also explored how Jesus embraced the outcast, the morally broken, the outsider, and the overlooked, calling us to do the same.

SHARE

As an icebreaker, share a time when a simple act of kindness or a gesture of acceptance made a significant impact on your life. How did it change you or your perspective?

READ

Read Matthew 22:37-40 together as a group.

DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What most stood out to you about the sermon?
2. Pastor Jeremy mentioned that embracing Jesus means inviting Him into every part of our lives. What areas of your life do you find hardest to invite Jesus into, and why?
3. Reflect on Rembrandt’s painting of the Prodigal Son [here](#). How does the father’s embrace in the painting speak to you about God’s love and forgiveness?
4. Reflect on the story of Jesus embracing the outcast, the morally broken, the outsider, and the overlooked. How can we as a group or as individuals better embrace those who feel marginalized or unwelcome?

5. In what ways can we, as a community, live out the Vision Statement: **“Embracing the Jesus who embraces the world”** in our daily interactions?
6. In Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus summarizes the Law with two commandments. What is the significance of Jesus linking the love of God with the love of neighbor, and how does this reflect the overall message of the Gospel?
7. How can the story of the Prodigal Son and the Father’s embrace inspire us to offer grace and love to others?

NEXT STEPS:

Consider attending the [Prayer and Re-envisioning event on May 24th](#) as a group to seek God’s guidance on how we can widen our embrace as a church community. Reflect on one practical way you can embrace someone in your life this week, whether through a kind gesture, a listening ear, or an act of service.

This sermon was preached on Mother’s Day, so spend some time embracing and affirming the women in our group as appropriate. Don’t make a distinction of mothers or not, but take time to embrace and encourage all women, recognizing their unique contributions and value.

PRAY:

Spend time in prayer as a group, asking God to help us embrace Jesus more fully and to empower us to embrace others with His love. Pray for specific people or groups in our community who need to experience the love and acceptance of Jesus.

CLOSING:

Reflect on how we can embrace Jesus and others in our daily lives. Let us remind ourselves of the power of an embrace and the transformative love of Jesus.