

SERIES DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE OUTSIDERS
CHAD BRUEGMAN
SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

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LEADER

Go over the Small Groups Covenant. We want to create a safe space to learn from each other. Please respect each other's religious backgrounds, denominations, and views, should they happen to come up. We want to keep our conversations focused on Jesus and caring for each other, so let's avoid politics.

MESSAGE RECAP

Chad acknowledged the heaviness many felt after recent national events. He reminded us that underneath anger is often pain, and that Jesus is the only one who can truly heal it.

In Luke 4, Jesus reads from Isaiah and then reminds his own hometown that God often moves toward the outsider—even those we'd consider "the other side." That didn't go over well then... and it's still challenging now. We are invited to begin not with finger-pointing, but with heart inventory: "Woe is me..."

The invitation? We set the table for God to work—not by matching the world's outrage—but by choosing humility, prayer, and love, even for our enemies.

WARM-UP QUESTION

- What's one small thing that helped you breathe a little easier or gave you hope this week? (*Coffee on the porch, a walk, a song, a conversation, a no-news day, etc.*)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When life feels heavy or overwhelming, where or who do you turn to for support?
2. Read Ephesians 4:26-27. This verse reminds us that anger itself isn't wrong—but how we handle it matters. What stands out to you in these verses about handling anger?
3. What's one thing that helps you calm down when emotions are running high?
4. Read Proverbs 29:11 and James 1:19-20. This is not calling for us to bury our anger or to not deal with it. Instead, we are to be in control of our emotions and how we express it. What helps you work through anger in a way that brings peace? What sometimes gets in the way of that?
5. When tension rises—maybe in conflict, stress, or frustrating situations—do you tend to listen first, speak first, or get angry first? How might leaning in with curiosity change your response?

6. Read Luke 4:16-30. Jesus often surprised people by caring for those others overlooked or even avoided (the widow of Zarephath, Naaman the Syrian). How does that challenge you? How might you move toward someone different from you with humility or kindness?
7. Read Isaiah 6:1-5. Isaiah, a prophet who spoke for God, encounters God's presence and says, "*Woe is me... I am a person of unclean lips.*" What's one area where God might be inviting you to start with repentance rather than reaction?
8. Taking communion reminded us: we live by mercy, not merit. How could remembering Jesus' mercy reshape how you speak, engage conflict, or respond to news this week?
9. Chad shared how real change, real transformation begins from the inside out when we take moments to look at our own hearts. What's one area where you'd like to grow or be more intentional this season?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Choose one of the following areas that will challenge and grow you this week:
 - Attend the Worship & Prayer Night and invite someone
 - Set one concrete boundary around news/social media (*e.g., no scrolling after 9pm, no doomscrolling in the morning*).
 - Pray daily for someone you disagree with—by name.
 - Practice repentance: write down one area you're owning before God and share it with one trusted person.

CLOSING PRAYER

Your closing prayer can include:

1. **Gratitude** – *We thank you Jesus for your mercy and for being near to the brokenhearted.*
2. **Acknowledgment of new insights** – *We are grateful for the wisdom You have given us today. Help it take root in our hearts.*
3. **Request for guidance** – *As we go into our week, we ask for a spirit of humility, healing and unity. Show us ways we can create space—through our time, energy, and resources—to love others well and set the table for people to meet You. Amen.*

LEADERS:

Encourage and attend **Worship & Prayer Night on September 25** with your group!

- Richmond & West End: 7:00 PM
- Missouri City: 6:30 PM