



Session 1

The Peculiar Community
week starting September 19

The church of Jesus is called to be a peculiar community. Different from the world around us. But as it is with our pictures of God and ourselves, our pictures of community get twisted and we begin to believe the false narratives about what community means and does. In this series we'll discover what it looks like to reclaim Jesus' view of community and live together in such a way that the world will become curious about the peculiarly good and beautiful God we serve. This series will combine bible teaching, spiritual practices, and community reflection to create space for the Holy Spirit to expand our view of community and help us live into that vision as a church.

GETTING STARTED

If you are new to one another or have any new group members, be sure to introduce yourselves and share one reason you are participating in or looking forward to this group. Discuss your group covenant and expectations. <https://sov.church/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Covenant-Member-Website.pdf>

- What do you think of when you hear the word peculiar? What or whom would you describe as peculiar?

DISCUSSION

1. "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar (KJV) people, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." —1 Peter 2:9 According to this verse, what is the purpose of the peculiar community of Jesus? How does that relate to our posture toward the world?
2. What is your earliest recollection of church? How did it shape your understanding of God and of sharing life with others?
3. What would a good and beautiful community look like? If you have encountered a good and beautiful community, describe your experience and what that was like.
4. Read aloud Romans 12:1-2. As a group, create a list of words and phrases from this passage that point to the peculiarity of Christians. Explain why you have chosen those words.
5. How does the "renewing of our minds" lead us to not be "conformed to this world"?
6. Refer to Ephesians 2:8-10 and Romans 12:3-18. In light of the fact that we are God's workmanship designed to do good works in our world, what practical steps can we (as individuals, as a small group, and as a church) take to become this type of peculiar community? What step will you commit to this week?

SOUL TRAINING

The main idea for this week is that Christians are peculiar (in the best way) because God is peculiar. The exercise for this week is twofold. 1. Spend time with God in Prayer each day; 2. Do peculiar things (acts of kindness) this week. Next time, share with one another how this went.

MEMORIZATION CHALLENGE

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

PRAY

Father, thank you for your peculiar love in our lives. Help us to be a people that are peculiar, reminding the world around us of your true character. Amen.

