

INTRO

- When you hear “be holy” what comes to mind? How does Jesus challenge our view of what it means to “be holy” by the way he interacted with sinners and outsiders?

READ

Jer 29:4-7, 10-13; Col 4:2-6

REFLECT & RESPOND

The enormous challenge we face today is the powerful and pervasive formative influence secular culture (Babylon) has on us through the digital revolution. In this series, we’re looking at practices that help forge resilience as disciples. Today we end with practice #5: countercultural mission:

Countercultural Mission means living a faithful presence in our everyday world, through God’s power, by living distinctly from the world for the world’s sake.

Jesus’ incarnation—being sent, empowered and holy to help us—is our pattern for missional living. 4 ways we live on countercultural mission:

1. LIVE AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS

We are all following something or someone that has a huge influence in our lives. A disciple of Jesus must constantly ask:

“How do I live as a follower of Jesus?”

(e.g. How do I approach social media, dating, money, sex, work, suffering, parenting etc as a follower of Jesus?)

2. LIVE OUT OF GOD’S STORY

We as humans are hungry for stories. Story/Narrative provides context and meaning for us. God’s story is the overarching grand narrative of life from Creation, Fall, Redemption & Restoration. When we live out of this narrative, it helps us become interpreters of the times, godly guides, and possessors of hope.

Qu: think about your life. What narratives have influenced and shaped you (e.g.family, country)?

3. LIVE SHAPED BY GOD’S CHURCH

Church attendance has been slowly dying. The pandemic has only accelerated that trend in North America. Jesus was never looking for church attenders though. Rather, we’re called to belong to a church *community*. The cost of that is commitment, sacrifice, vulnerability where you are both cared for and challenged by others.

Qu: what are some challenges to being a church community during COVID? How can we meet those challenges?

4. LIVE A QUESTIONABLE LIFE

To live a questionable life means to live in such a way that causes curiosity and questions from those around you.

“Walk in wisdom towards outsiders” assumes we are in close proximity to those who don’t share our faith or beliefs. Walk wisely, not weirdly, knowing you are presenting Christ to them in how you live.

“Let your speech be gracious seasoned with salt” means we are to interact with people graciously, winsomely, and tactfully.

Qu: Does my life provoke curiosity amongst those who don’t share my beliefs?

Qu: What encouraged and challenged you the most from this Forging Resilience series?

PRAY

- Using Col 4:2-4 as a guide, pray for open doors and open mouths as we live amongst those who may not share our beliefs or faith.
- Who are you or who can you pray for who doesn’t follow Jesus?