

Session 8: Strangers & Exiles



INTRODUCTION

How do we live out this story? How do we engage the world around us? For the next two sessions, we will explore how God calls all Christians to live as ambassadors. Rather than simply assimilating or withdrawing from culture, we participate in God's mission to witness to and redeem culture.

“As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them.” —Luke 24:15

EMMAUS ROAD REFLECTION

1. What has God been saying to me through this episode (e.g. encouragement, challenge)?
2. What was significant or new? What questions did it raise?

DISCUSSION

1. What Like Fran, why do you think we are tempted to withdraw from our culture?
2. What are the similarities and differences between the exile we experience and the exile Daniel and the Israelites experienced? What can we learn from Daniel about engaging culture?
3. Where are you experiencing exile, and what difficulties do you experience there? What does it mean to be an ambassador in that place?
4. How is your church a local embassy? How might your church help sustain you as an ambassador? What is it doing well? What needs to change?

ACTIVITY

God works through our vocations in the world. Think of a place where God has placed you as an ambassador, a place you know and spend time in regularly. Over the next week, ask God to open your eyes as you go into this place or community: What is good in this place that I can celebrate and cultivate? What brokenness in this place grieves me?

As God opens your eyes to see, continue to pray for that place and ask: How can I help to bring more of God's light and love—God's shalom? Who do I need to work with to do this? Write down what you observe and pray over it.