

HOME GROUP STUDY – BI-LINGUAL WEEK (September 30, 2018)

INTRODUCTION: There was a great book I read several years ago, *SAME KIND OF DIFFERENT AS ME* (BY Ron Hall with Denver Moore) -- Recently it was made into a movie. The movie is good, but the book is terrific. I highly recommend reading it.

The book is based on a true story. It follows the life of a successful art dealer who gets involved in an inner city food pantry ministry. He initially goes as an unwilling participant to keep peace with his wife, who had a dream that she was to meet a homeless person (and saw his face in the dream) who would change their lives. She knew she had to find this person– but God also told her that her husband would have to take the lead. At the time the husband was at best a nominal believer – and thought she might be a little crazy.

For a little more background view these movie trailers with your HG –

<https://www.facebook.com/SameKindMovie/videos/vb.930825600377315/1406201572839713/?type=2&theater>

<https://www.facebook.com/SameKindMovie/videos/vb.930825600377315/1404361826357021/?type=2&theater>

Bible study trailer --

http://search.myway.com/search/video.jhtml?enc=2&n=782b454e&p2=%5EY6%5Expt418%5ES17509%5Eus&pg=video&pn=1&ptb=E8622063-269F-488A-83F9-30D0B472DE08&qs=&searchfor=T5k2rEQf1J2GjLIpOEw04oWpbhqM4xINnoWU3HPNGWpIHuGEBvw-ztwByNzfguuBW2ljwK4Iu19mzIP_IgrkJEOBxu7D-kfH1so9LQcjupGIvRYmhnrvj0dwLiBTYqkKURYs-llSKmNFLEU84v_R5TPnsqJpTS3-gzoOldoVL_0FpKICv2saOYSWVhX83NFkoXg2gedFesCyg_NyklOMik2M2-SLigTwsXvtplhjn7HdC_pqDckXkQleVEQ1ZjaStep2nICSzEydux_0salt7khy42X4UxfgKg p6diGWCyCC05XAgPYfZpt9ccYYWm5I-QUxnO5J9dVWrtieYXEg&si=CIPDhIqW4s8CFQkwaQodOVkF4Q&ss=sub&st=tab&trp=sbt&trs=wt

“The Same Kind of Different As Me.” That’s a great title. It calls for deep thought.

God created a lot of diversity in this world. And we see a lot of diversity even in the human family. Since everything God made is “good,” we know there are differences among us that are worth celebrating.

I am glad that men and women are different!

I am glad that there is American food and soul food and Mexican tacos and enchiladas!

I am glad God gave some of us great singing voices, some funny personalities and made some of us love athletics and others love academics.

We don’t have to look far in nature to see that God loves diversity! Consider the elephant and the mouse – the mosquito and the butterfly. Healthy diversity should be celebrated! Healthy diversity makes the world a beautiful and interesting place.

But there is also a bad form of diversity – the “dog eat dog” kind of diversity is “not good.”

The Bible tells us that Heaven is a place where there will be angels and seraphim and cherubim and people of all tribes, and colors and nationalities and languages worshipping *together* around the throne of God. That is healthy diversity. (See Revelation 4-5).

In our Bi-Lingual service this week we talked about some things that are “different” about us that can lead to misunderstanding or even conflict.

DISCUSSION: In Home Groups this week let’s explore and discuss our own conscious and unconscious prejudices and what we can do to fight the idea that others are a “different (bad kind of different” from ourselves.

Then, take some time to discuss these Biblical teachings that “we are more alike than different.”

1. We are *all* made in the image of God (Gen. 1:27). Break down this statement: “As a white English speaking man I am no more like God, no more capable of worship, no more possessing of worth and dignity than any other human of any other gender, color, culture, language or race”. Focus on the underlined words. Are these statements in line with what the world teaches? Is this what YOU believe and practice?

2. We are *all* sinners corrupted by the fall (Rom. 3:10-20; 5:12-21). How does this truth inform and transform our relationships with non-Christians? How does this truth help us in our Christian mission of peacemaking and becoming “sons of God?” (Matthew 5:9).

3. *All of us who have trusted in Jesus are one in Christ* (Gal. 3:28). Our most important identity is not male or female ... black or white, Spanish speaker or English speaker, rich or poor, boomer or millennial, but Christian. What does it really mean to be one in Christ?

4. Christ came to tear down walls between peoples not build them up (Eph. 2:14). As a people and a church, are we better at dividing people or bringing them together in real and healthy relationships? What are some walls that need to be torn down in our church and our personal and family lives?

Close your time together in prayer that God will show us where we have allowed prejudices to damage our relationships and to help us overcome.