

Session 01

The Theology of a Stranger – Introduction



Session Overview

- 1. The Theology of a Stranger – Introduction**
2. The Theology of a Stranger – Solomon's prayer
3. The Theology of a Stranger – Jesus was an Immigrant
4. The Theology of a Stranger – Christians as Strangers in the World
5. The Theology of a Stranger – The Example of the Multicultural Congregation

Session Summary.

In this session we invite you to explore with Dr. Stephen Beck what is the significant role the least of these, the stranger, or immigrant, plays in God's mission to all the nations.

Discussion Questions

1. When you think of strangers, refugees, or immigrants joining your church community, what is your initial reaction?

2. Why is it so important to plant, or become, multicultural church congregations?

3. Do you have experience working inter-culturally? If so, share your experience of the challenges you faced and the joys you experienced. If not, share about your experience working in diverse age groups or with people across different socio-economic backgrounds.

4. Dr. Beck showed how Jesus identifies with strangers, refugees, and those on the outside fringes of society in Matthew 25:34-46. What implications do these verses have for us as Christians?

5. What are ways you can follow Jesus' lead and incorporate the stranger into your local church community, and into your individual life?

6. In our home cultures and church cultures, it can be very easy to exclude people who are different than us. Think of some ways that you might invite someone who is on the outside into your own culture.

7. What would you do if a stranger from a foreign land showed up at your church gathering? How could you respond to make them feel like they are joining in with your culture, without having to conform to it?

8. Dr. Beck shared about the common theme of God working through the stranger to bring about his mission to people of all nations. Was it surprising for you to see the essentiality of the stranger in God's mission? How has this deepened your understanding of the Biblical message?

9. The people of Israel were once foreigners, and so God instructed them to care for the foreigners in their land. Think of a time when you experienced a hardship in your life and because of it, you were able to empathize with others and help them when they were going through a similar situation.
