



Week 4: The Biased Mind

FACILITATOR'S NOTE:

- ✓ Start your group discussion with the "Check-in" question to help your members reflect back on their week and follow up on last week's application challenge.
- ✓ Review the "Big Idea" to help you gain clarity around the heart of this week's message and focus your group's discussion towards a clear direction.
- ✓ Read this week's scripture passages together and guide your group through the "Discuss" questions to initiate meaningful dialogue around key concepts or insights from this week's message.
- ✓ Move your group discussion to a deeper level by leading them through questions in "Apply". Use discernment to customize these application questions to meet the needs & dynamics of your group.
NOTE: You do not have to cover all the questions provided in "Apply".
- ✓ Connect with God together as a group through this week's "prayer practice", which can be in the form of a prayer exercise or some guidance on what to pray for in relation to the message or application.

CHECK-IN	What new kinds of experiences came as a result of shifting your focus onto Jesus, rather than the <i>Winnebagos</i> this past week?
BIG IDEA	<p>Cognitive Bias: a systematic error in the thinking process when people are processing and interpreting information in the world around them.</p> <p>Implicit Bias: an unconscious association, belief or attitude toward any social group.</p> <p>Inheriting Bias is inevitable, but holding on to it is a choice. When we properly find our identity and unity in Jesus, we are then empowered to be impartial and unbiased.</p>
DISCUSS	<p>The narrative recorded in Acts 10 is an incredible account of God's response to bias in the early church, involving two very different people. It may be helpful to see this by reading the story in 3 parts. a) Cornelius's version (Acts 10:1-8). b) Peter's version (Acts 10:9-23). c) God connecting the dots through Jesus (Acts 10:24-48). If possible, have 3 people each read a section aloud.</p> <hr/> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Identify bias that is seen.</i>2. <i>What is the context that brings that bias into the picture?</i>3. <i>What has been the effect of that bias on the people?</i>

4. What is the result of God moving them through a historical and religious bias?

APPLY

How do we respond to God's teaching in meaningful ways? What might God ask of us in mind, spirit, or actions?

(This week, each group member picks one specific application to do, and text/email/FB/IG/SNAP/call/etc group members their experience when done.)

A) Choose one of the following to focus on: (don't have to do all)

1. Pastor Karen discussed various types of **cognitive biases**. Review and identify which of these you have encountered in your thinking and decision making. (refer to sermon slides, or ask google if you need a refresher)

Confirmation Bias	Anchoring Bias	Availability Heuristic
Halo Effect	Actor - Observer	Functional Fixedness
Loss-Aversion	Self-Serving	Bandwagon

OR

2. Due to **implicit bias**, people may often attribute certain qualities or characteristics to all members of a particular group, a phenomenon known as stereotyping. When have you been conscious of implicit bias directed at you? When have you been aware of your own implicit bias on other groups?

*When you have identified which bias you are susceptible to, choose **one** (or more if able) of the following pathways to help overcome these biases:*

Pathways to Overcoming Our Biases:

Awareness	Test Assumptions	Get Uncomfortable	Be Humble
Who rubs you the wrong way? Ask why? Ask others for objective opinions of you carrying possible biases. Be cautious of the language you use.	Seek out disagreements. Make it easier for others to disagree with you. Consider the opposite of your initial instinct. What if the opposite of what I think is true?	Engage with different people or new ideas. Hang out in a different part of the city. Participate in a group with people that you may have biased opinions about.	Learn from someone with more experience. Listen without giving your point of view. Relinquish perceived rights. Be willing to not be the smartest person in the room.

B) Peter's vision came to him during his prayer time with God which happened to be around noon. (Acts 10:9) This week, commit to allowing God to connect the dots for us and for the recognition of our biases, through a consistent rhythm of prayer. Please pray the below prayer as a group, and individually throughout the week.

PRAYER PRACTICE

Prayer as a group: (and individually throughout the week)

“Lord, you alone know the cognitive and implicit biases we carry with us, even when we are unaware of them. Help us to allow your Holy Spirit to show us where they exist in our minds. Help us renew our thinking and decision making, for your sake. In Jesus' name. Amen.”

(When done, allow for 1 minute of silence, or 12 deep breaths, to make space for God)

