



A Place For Everyone —Week 1 Andy Stanley

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step in taking part in the discussion:

- Describe a situation when you felt like an outsider. How did it feel being an outsider? What would have helped you feel like an insider?

With your Bible or YouVersion, read Acts 15:1-11, 19-21, 30-31.

Reflect: Verses 1-11 of Acts 15 describes an early disagreement among the early church about whether or not Gentiles should be allowed to into the church. Some of the church leaders viewed them as outsiders and should be treated as such. In verses 11 and 19, Peter stands up and declares that the church should not exclude the Gentiles and the church “should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.” (v.19)

- Describe a time when you felt like an outsider at a church. How did that experience affect your attitude towards the church?
- Why do you think it is easy for churches to forget that church is for everyone not just for “church people”?
- One of the primary reasons we make others feel like outsiders is because we are too comfortable in our current surroundings. We must get out of our comfort zone. Share a time when you jumped out of your comfort zone to do something God was leading you to do. How did your stepping out of your comfort zone help you grow as a person and in your faith?
- What changes in our mindset can each of us make to help our church environment be “A Place for Everyone?”
- What are some of the ways your church successfully creates an environment that is “A Place for Everyone?”
- Who would you like to see find a place in your church? What would it take for them to be comfortable at church? Ask someone to join you and pray for them.

Putting it Into Action: This week take some steps to do your part in helping make your church “A Place for Everyone.” Here are a few suggestions of things you can do to make that happen:

- Don’t rush out of the church after your worship experience. Spend some time in the lobby visiting with those you do not know and especially those who are visitors.
- Before, during and after your worship experience, keep an eye out for someone who looks lost or could use some help. Step out of your comfort zone and do what you can to assist them and make them feel at home.
- If you are not already serving, it is time to step up and serve. Consider serving on the Host Team, SWITCH, or LifeKIDS. These areas of ministry are instrumental in creating a welcoming atmosphere for everyone in the church.

Final thought: The church is “A Place for Everyone.” Each of us can do our part to insure that our church does not make anyone who walks through the doors feel like an outsider. Pray and ask God to help you jump out of your comfort zone and step up your efforts in making your church a welcoming place for everyone.

Continue the conversation: Don’t let the conversation stop here. Take the next step and continue the conversation this week with your friends, family, or LifeGroup and online on Facebook, Twitter, and Church Online.

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week. Use these suggestions to help you expand your conversations this week both in person and online:

Day 1: Read Acts 15:1-31. Pray and ask God to reveal to you some ways you can help your church become “A Place for Everyone.”

Day 2: Read Mark 12:28-34. Commit to God in prayer that you will strive to love your neighbors as yourself, especially those within your church.

Day 3: Read Luke 10:25-37. Pray for those you know in your church who are in need. Commit to doing something to help meet their needs.

Day 4: Read Acts 20:28. Spend time praying for your church. Pray that God will protect and strengthen it. Pray for the people in your church.

Day 5: 1 Peter 4:10-11. Commit to God in prayer that you will use your talents to serving others, especially within your church.