

IT'S COMPLICATED

Discussion Guide “Do You See What I See?” Pastor Jelani Lewis

Starter Have you ever judged something too quickly? Maybe you ordered something online and when it showed up, it looked nothing like the picture. Or you met someone and thought they didn't like you, but they were really just intimidated or shy.

Sermon Summary

How we see ourselves and others shapes how we treat people. Pastor Jelani Lewis challenges us to view everyone through God's perspective rather than outward appearances or personal bias. When we understand our identity as loved, chosen children of God and see others as created in His image, our relationships are marked by compassion, respect, and love.

ACT

As you absorb sermons, read, or participate in group discussion, take notes and make a plan to apply what God's teaching you.

A (Action): Mark important ideas with an “A” to remind you to take action.

C (Contemplate): Use a “C” to mark ideas you want to process further.

T (Transfer/Teach): If it's something you need to teach to someone else, note it with a “T.”

Read

What do these Scriptures teach you about God's character? (Read some or all verses together.)

[1 Samuel 16:6–7](#)

[John 1:12](#)

[Jeremiah 1:5](#)

[Genesis 2:18](#)

[Mark 12:30–31](#)

[Colossians 3:12–14](#)

[Genesis 1:27](#)

[Acts 14](#)

[John 13](#)

[Mark 12:31](#)

[Ephesians 5](#)

[Ephesians 3:14–21](#)

[1 John 4:8](#)

Discuss

Choose questions to keep the discussion moving. There's no need to discuss every question.

1. How does understanding your identity as loved, chosen, and set apart by God impact your sense of worth and purpose?
2. How does the way you currently see yourself influence the way you treat others and respond in relationships?

3. What biases, assumptions, or past experiences might be shaping how you see certain people in your life right now?
4. What would change in your relationships if you intentionally chose to see others the way God sees them?
5. What practical steps can you take this week to ask God to help you see yourself and others through the lens of love rather than outward appearance?

Go Deeper

1. Study Luke 10:25–37 (the good Samaritan). What assumptions or prejudices might be shaping who you choose to show compassion to, and how can you begin to see people the way God does?
2. Study John 4:1–26 (Jesus and the woman at the well). How does Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman challenge the way you see and treat people with different backgrounds or past mistakes?

Apply

1. For the next seven days, intentionally pray, "God, help me see myself and others the way You see us," especially when interacting with family, coworkers, or difficult people.
2. Choose one Scripture each day about your identity in Christ and speak or pray it over yourself to replace negative self-perceptions with truth.
3. Instead of trying to fix, judge, or change someone, intentionally show love through listening, serving, encouraging, and forgiving. Then, trust God to do the changing.

Pray

Here are some prayer points:

1. Ask the Lord to help you see yourself as loved, chosen, and set apart and to free you from false labels, insecurity, or shame.
2. Ask the Lord to remove bias, pride, and judgment and to replace it with compassion, honor, and genuine love for people.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your words, actions, and attitudes so you build others up and represent Christ in every relationship.

Leadership Tip

Intentionally speak life over group members by recognizing their strengths, listening without judgment, and treating each person with dignity, helping them experience what it looks like to be seen and valued the way God sees them.