

God and the Outsider

In the Middle East, because it's illegal to convert to Christianity, majority culture believers are forced to attend the "underground" church. Learn how God is using our friends Matt and Rachel and the underground church movement to reach people in one of the least-reached areas of the world.



INTRODUCTION

God cares for the outsider and calls on us. We are agents of reconciliation. We are Christ's ambassadors – as though God were making His appeal through us.

STARTER QUESTION

Have you ever felt like an outsider, maybe in your family, at work, or even in church? Did someone reach out to you and make you feel like you belonged?

INTO THE WORD

Have you ever made a decision that you knew was the right but you were totally alone after making the decision? Have you ever made a decision that was totally against your family culture and values?

After the angel of the Lord spoke to Hagar in Genesis 16:9-12 and told her to name her son Ishmael, he continued, "He shall be a wild man; his hand shall be against every man, and every man's hand against him." As a parent, how would react if that message were given to you about your child?

When Abraham and Sarai try to force God's hand, their plan backfires. Can you think of an instance where you lost patience waiting on God's timing and took matters into your own hands? What happened?

APPLICATION

What part are you playing in The Great Commission? (Matthew 28:18-20)

Matt mentioned that when it comes to reaching outsiders, one of our objections is, "Anybody but Muslims." When we think of Muslims, we remember September 11th. We associate Muslims with terror and the ISIS caliphate along with radical Islam's goal of imposing Sharia Law in the West. We may see them as a people who refuse to assimilate. With all of these reservations, how will we ever be able to impact the Muslim community with the gospel?

Have you made a decision that could cost you your life? Will you commit to pray for new believers in Jesus Christ from the Middle East that are facing this reality?

PRAYER

"We love because he first loved us." Jesus, we know love because you loved us first, unconditionally, and through ultimate sacrifice. You love us despite our sin and our brokenness. Jesus, help us to love others how you have loved us. Open our hearts to show any outsider that they are never beyond the reach of God's grace. Amen.