

Study Series: Difference Makers

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 Lesson Title: “The Disposition of a Difference Maker”
(pp. 105-117)

Session 9

January 30, 2022

**The main point of this lesson is:** Difference makers have their identity anchored in being God’s people, even in troubling times.

**Focus on this goal:** To help adults find their identity in Jesus, not in uncertainties of family, profession, ability, or possessions

**Key Bible Passage:** Psalm 79:13

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

**Invite** participants who have ever piloted a boat to instruct the rest of the group on how to use an anchor. **State** Wikihow identifies the three main steps of anchoring a boat are to select the proper equipment, choose a good location to anchor, then drop the anchor properly and check your position often.\*

**Relate** from Day One (p. 105) the illustration of the sign that asks: “Do you have an anchor? Do you know how to use it?” **Ask:** *Why are those good questions for more than just boating?* **Draw attention** to the main point of this lesson and focus on this goal statements (p. 116).

Step 2. What Is Your Identity?

**Request** the group state different ways people might answer the question, “Who are you?” **Analyze** how what we do becomes tangled up with who we are.

**Discuss** Day One, activity 2 (p. 106). **Analyze** how people today declare, “I am, and there is no one besides me” **Ask:** *What is the destiny of people with that attitude?* **Request** two volunteers read God’s response to that attitude in Isaiah 43:11 and 45:5.

**Declare:** *Understanding who God is and who we are in relation to Him is the only anchor that can firmly hold our identity.*

Step 3. Identity in Exile

**Explain** the Old Testament relates how Israel kept forgetting their identity was in God alone. Using Day Two (pp. 107-108), briefly **lecture** on Israel’s history from the time of Abraham to the judges.

**Invite** a volunteer to read 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-20. **Ask:** *What did the Israelites want and why? Why might wanting to be like everyone else be a dangerous way to establish an identity? What are ways Christians today want to be like everyone else?*

**Discuss** the question from Day Two, activity 1 (p. 108).

**Recount** Israel’s history from the time of the kings until the Babylonian exile (p. 108). **Evaluate** why the exile could have completely shattered the Israelites’ sense of identity.

Step 4. Your People, the Sheep of Your Pasture

**Explain** Psalm 79 was written during the exile. **Discuss** Day Three, activity 1 (p. 109).

**Point out** the title of this session (p. 105). **Request** volunteers look up definitions of “disposition” on their mobile devices and read them aloud. **Ask:** *What does Psalm 79:13 reveal about the prevailing tendency and characteristic attitude of a difference maker? How can basing our identity on being God’s people keep our identity from being shattered by circumstances? How can it lead us to be difference makers?*

**Invite** a volunteer to read the last paragraph of Day Three (p. 111). **Guide** the group to imagine what the world would be like if Christians really believed 1) We are eternally secure; 2) We are justified by faith; 3) Being children of God is the most fundamental part of our identity.

Step 5. Never Alone

**Note** that two of the most well-loved passages about God’s being our Shepherd are Psalm 23 and John 10. **Invite** volunteers to share from these chapters what is comforting to them about Jesus’ being their shepherd. **Ask** why difference makers are never alone.

**Ask:** *Can we make a lasting difference without the Holy Spirit and one another? Why or why not?*

**Invite** a volunteer to read the pull quote of Day Four (p. 112). **Ask:** *How can we increasingly excel at doing all these things in our faith community?*

Step 6. Difference Makers Aren’t Ashamed

**Remind** the group of the situation of the Israelites when Psalm 79 was written. Ask what reasons these exiles would have had to be ashamed. **Request** a volunteer read aloud Psalm 79:13. **Ask:** *Would you ever guess that was written by an Israelite in exile if you didn’t know the context? Why?*

**Discuss** Day Five, activity 1 (p. 113). **Assert** difference makers are grateful people and are not ashamed to be identified as belonging to God.

**Draw** a line down the center of a large writing surface. **Write** *ashamed* on one side of the line and *arrogant* on the other. **Guide** the group to consider reasons some believers are ashamed to identify with God. **Discuss** ways believers act arrogantly because they are God’s people. **Record** responses on the appropriate side of the writing surface. **Consider** where believers must reside on that diagram if they’re going to be difference makers.

**Ask:** *What can keep us on that fine line rather than falling into the ditches of embarrassment or arrogance?*

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

**Invite** responses to Day Five, activity 3 (p. 115). **Declare:** *The proper equipment for an anchor is living hope in an unchanging God and the best location to anchor is in Christ alone. So, anchor your identity in Jesus, and check your position often, making sure you’re not looking to anything else for your identity. That’s how you’ll be a difference maker.*

**Close** in prayer by reading the Difference Maker Declaration (p. 66).

\* <https://www.wikihow.com/Anchor-a-Boat>

