

DISCUSSION GUIDE

FIGHTING FOR OUR FIRST FREEDOM

Send it Ahead — WEEK 3

ICEBREAKER: Why doesn't God do something about evil and suffering?

OVERVIEW: This Tuesday the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments for the case of Masterpiece Cakeshop vs. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, a case that many are calling the Roe vs. Wade of religious liberty. Jack Phillips, the owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop, is fighting the ruling of the Civil Rights Commission, which decided that he must make wedding cakes for same-sex couples regardless of his religious beliefs. In this discussion we will go deeper with the issue of religious liberty and learn how we can get involved in the fight for our first freedom.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. SOGIs (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity) are laws that are intended to promote equality for people who identify as gay, lesbian, or transgender, by making it illegal to discriminate against people on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. How do these laws cause major problems for people of faith?
3. What would you say to someone who says that religious liberty is just an excuse to discriminate?
4. What would you say to someone who says that just as it is unlawful to refuse to serve people on the basis of race, it should also be unlawful to refuse to serve people on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity?
5. What would you say to someone who says that people like Jack Phillips "should just get over it and bake the cake"?
6. Why do you think that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission ruled that it was lawful for gay-friendly bakers to refuse to make a cake that was anti gay marriage, but the same commission said that it was unlawful for a Christian baker to refuse to make a cake that was pro gay marriage?
7. During the sermon we watched a video in which college students were asked a series of questions about the rights of business owners to refuse service that violated their conscience. Why was it so clear to the students that business owners should have the right to run their business according to their conscience, but when it came to a Christian refusing to serve a gay wedding the issue became very cloudy?
8. Why is religious liberty worth fighting for?

The Last Word: "We don't want God to be part of our lives on just Sundays. We want Him to be part of our lives every day." — Jack Phillips, Masterpiece Cakeshop