



BREAKING The Spiral of Silence

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“Chuck Colson convened us for action.” This was stated several times during the Breaking the Spiral of Silence program.

The Breaking the Spiral of Silence project -- Chuck’s last – was intended by him to launch a groundswell of awareness and action in the body of Christ to change our culture for the good.

Now the ball is in our court. We’re poised to carry forward the vision that Chuck illuminated for us, and we’ve been given the admonition to become informed and to speak the truth “lovingly and winsomely.”

We recommend, as a next step, a discussion of the points raised in Breaking the Spiral of Silence and some serious brainstorming about how you might start to effect change in your own community.

Select from the questions below for a discussion immediately following the showing of the DVD, and consider starting a weekly discussion group to explore these topics more fully.

SESSION 1

- What is the Spiral of Silence?
- Why are life, marriage, and religious liberty the key issues for Christians?
- Discuss this statement by Joni Eareckson Tada: “We hold suffering in contempt.” How does this play out in our culture? What tangible things can we do to rectify this?
- Discuss this statement by Robert George: “The opposite of silence is truth.” Do you agree? How do we put this into action?
- What is the definition of “winsomely”? How does one communicate winsomely?
- What are practical things you can do to protect and strengthen marriages in your community?
- Jennifer Roback Morse stated that today’s youth are overwhelmingly pro-life and anti-divorce. Discuss how you might engage the young people in your community to speak out to others about what they believe.
- Becoming informed is one of the key steps in breaking the Spiral of Silence. Along with www.colsoncenter.org, www.manhattandeclaration.org, www.ruthinstitute.org and www.BreakingtheSpiralofSilence.com, what other online resources are you aware of? Develop a list and share it.
- Discuss how to develop talking points about life, marriage and religious liberty. Practice within your group.
- Discuss how to respond winsomely to people who don’t agree with you. Role-play within your group.



SESSION 2

- Discuss John Stonestreet's statement: "Be all here." What does this mean in practical terms?
- Discuss this statement by Sam Rodriguez: "My vertical identity empowers my horizontal reality."
- Discuss steps that can be taken to build a multi-ethnic, multi-generational firewall of righteousness and justice in your community.
- Discuss Fr. Jonathan Morris' concept, the Rolodex of Courage, and brainstorm how to develop your rolodex and how to engage the media in your community. Who would be "interesting guests" for local media?
- Discuss Harry Jackson's 5 steps to being a prophetic voice in our culture. Give practical examples.
 - Live right.
 - Do right.
 - Move right.
 - Pray right.
 - Speak right.
- Discuss Jackson's 7 things you can do in your sphere of influence:
 - Pray.
 - Register to vote.
 - Email, write and call your elected officials.
 - Go to rallies.
 - Vote for God's candidates.
 - Reach your world.
 - Stay informed.
- Discuss what you personally are called to impact in your sphere of influence.
- Read and discuss the Manhattan Declaration together. Brainstorm ideas for getting more signers.
- Discuss practical ways to bring the "Living Word" to what Todd Wagner called the "tournament of narratives" in our culture.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the church saying about life, marriage and religious liberty? Have you heard sermons on these topics? Has there been adult education on these topics in your church? What avenues of action are open to you for bringing about change?
- What are the national and local media saying about life, marriage and religious liberty? What avenues of action are open to you for bringing about change?
- What is being taught in the schools in your community about life, marriage, and religious liberty? What avenues of action are open to you for bringing about change?
- Check out www.championthevote.com, and discuss practical ways to promote voter registration and voting in the community of faith. Discuss strategies for reaching different demographic groups within your community.
- Consider the children's story "The Emperor's New Clothes" by Hans Christian Andersen. With your family, discuss the story in relation to the concept of breaking the Spiral of Silence, and teach your children the importance of standing up for truth.



MOBILIZE FOR ACTION

Discussion will prepare us to speak the truth “lovingly and winsomely,” but to be effective in bringing about change, we also need an organized action plan. Below are action items for each member of your group. Reporting on your results will create a culture of accountability as you mobilize to break the Spiral of Silence.

- Review the one-pagers on life, marriage and religious liberty as a group, then make a detailed list of the specific people in the following arenas with whom you’ll share the one-pagers and open a dialogue:
 - o Family
 - o Friends
 - o Neighbors
 - o Bible study group
 - o Co-workers
 - o Church leaders and members
 - o Education professionals
 - o Media professionals
 - o Business people
 - o Elected leaders and political candidates
- Strategize about the best approach to each person and report results to the group.
- Examine and discuss the records of elected leaders and political candidates on the key issues, and strategize approaches to present the Biblical view to them. Report results to the group.
- Use the voter look-up tool at www.AreYouRegistered.org to find out if the Christians on your contact list are registered to vote. If they’re not, make sure they register and commit to vote. Report results to the group.
- Study the Manhattan Declaration as a group. www.manhattandeclaration.org. A study guide book is available.
- Encourage everyone in your group to show the Breaking the Spiral of Silence DVD in their own home to a new group of people. This is the way a movement multiplies!

Please keep us posted on the progress of your mobilization! Email us at info@breakingthespiralofsilence.com

