

Loving The Manipulators

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” - John 15:12 NIV

COMMON TACTICS OF MANIPULATORS

- _____
- _____

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” - Matthew 16:22-24 NIV

THREE PRAYERS AGAINST MANIPULATION

1. “God, Help Me To _____ What I Am _____ To Do.”

2. “God, Help Me _____ If Someone Is _____ Me.”

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.” - Matthew 16:16-17 NIV

HOW TO KNOW IF YOU’RE BEING MANIPULATED

- You Can’t Say _____.
- You Always Fee _____.
- You Feel Ultimately _____.
- You Compromise Your _____.

3. “God, Help Me _____ Healthy _____.”

Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” - Matthew 16:23 NIV

- The relationships you have are a combination of what you've _____ and what you've _____.
- If you don't like what you have, change what you _____ and what you _____.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- On a scale of 1-10, how controlling was the home you grew up in? How has this shaped you?
- Are you more of a controller or a people pleaser?
- Which of the common tactics of manipulators are most effective on you: threats or guilt? Why are they so effective?
- Why do you think some people are so controlling? What drives this kind of living?
- What do you think the motivations are for someone who allows themselves to be controlled?
- What areas of your life do you try to have the most control over? What would you like to do differently?
- Are there any unhealthy relationships you’ve allowed to control you? How will you begin to draw boundaries?