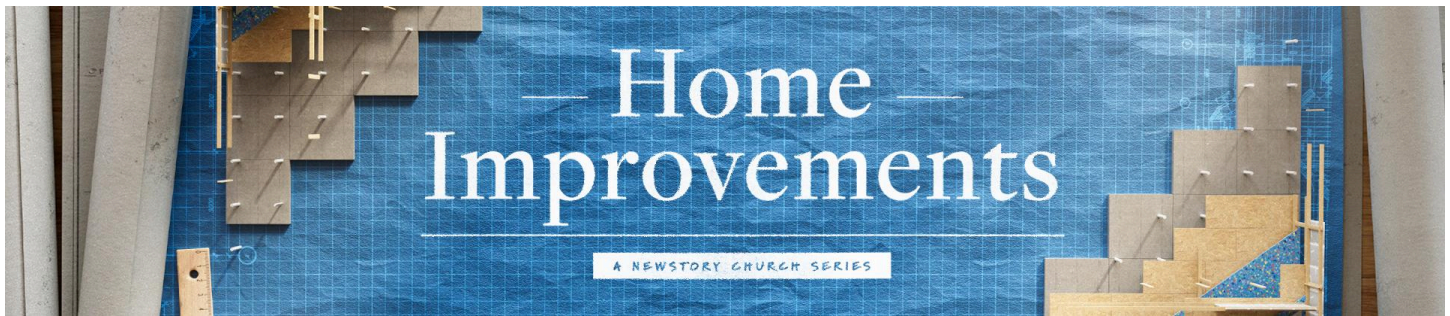




part 2, Structural Damage

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REMINDER: This guide is intended to spark meaningful conversation, not exhaustive coverage. The goal is connection, not completion. So feel free to spend extended time on just one or two elements that resonate with the group. Aim for heartfelt connection & personal application. Finally, trust the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion in the areas most needed by your group and enjoy!

Icebreaker: If you could fix one thing about your current home, what would that be?

1) Take some time to review the three relational "structural damages" that were identified: **Defensiveness, Emotional Distance, Demanding Posture** (Genesis 3:1-19). Which one stood out to you most and why?

2) In the same way that defensiveness showed up in Adam or Eve's responses, how do you see this similar pattern show up in everyday relationships and in life?

3) When you are personally criticized or exposed, how do you tend to react? (ex: minimize, blame, explain, shut down) Why do you think you react in that way?

4) Where do you tend to hide emotionally from God or from others? What does hiding look like for you (withdrawal, silence, humor, over-functioning, busyness, etc.)?

5) When in your life have you felt truly known and still loved? What helped you trust in that moment?

6) Which of the three patterns (Defensive, Distant, or Demanding) do you feel God inviting you to work on right now? What barriers might be underneath that pattern?

7) What is one way this week that you can draw near to someone instead of defending, hiding, or controlling?