

# COURAGEOUS FRIENDSHIP

Session #6: Honesty

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## Opening Question

**Discuss:** What are some reasons you can think of that people don't want to tell the truth about themselves or others?

## Input

**Big Idea:** Honesty is necessary for real, gospel-centered, Christ-exalting friendships. And it's hard to do.

## Vulnerability

**1 John 1:6-7** | <sup>6</sup> If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Sharing and Vulnerability

**Sharing (step one: necessary but insufficient)**

**Vulnerability (step two: necessary for friendship, harder to reach)**

**Discussion:** Why do you think we struggle to move beyond sharing into vulnerability?  
What barriers to honesty about ourselves are common for us?

## Candor

Candor involves two habits: encouragement and rebuke.

- **Encouragement** is seeing something good in someone else and calling it out, even if they don't see it.
- **Rebuke** is seeing something dangerous in someone else and calling it out, even if they don't want to hear it.

**Proverbs 27:5-6** | <sup>5</sup> Better is open rebuke than hidden love. <sup>6</sup> Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

**Discussion:** How can we grow in “truth-in-love” candor? What are some intentional habits we can build in our lives to take our conversations from sharing/listening to vulnerability/candor?

## Major Themes Discussion

### Large Group Discussion

1. Do you have a friendship that is marked by vulnerability and candor? How did it develop? How do you keep it healthy?
2. What barriers to vulnerability and candor do we have at *City Church*? What do you think it will take for us to grow out of them?

## Application

1. Corporate (What does this mean for **us** as *City Church*?) In our *disposition*? In our communal *practices*?
2. Personal (What does this mean for **me** as a *Christian*?) In my *disposition* toward neighbors, coworkers, classmates, etc.? In my daily *practices* of honesty and hospitality?

## Next Week: Friendship Skills–Forgiveness

