

## Small Group Discussion Questions Following the Weekend of February 15-16, 2020

Please don't feel you have to answer every question.

### **The Stories We Tell Ourselves**

Alan Kraft, Lead Pastor

#### Icebreaker

Share a recent, simple expectation you had that went unmet by another person that made you either angry or disappointed.

As a result of these emotions, what assumptions could you have easily drawn about the person's motives that may or may not have been correct?

If believed, how could these assumptions have altered your relationship with this person?

#### Group Interaction & Application

Read Matthew 7:1-5 aloud a couple of times, in differing Bible translations, if possible.

What strikes you, intrigues you, or uniquely speaks to you from these verses – words, phrases, or perhaps something else – especially in conjunction with the focus of this week's message?

What stood out to you from the message this weekend, or maybe created some push-back or inner tensions for you?

Describe someone you know who would illustrate the adage that "you can't judge a book by its cover."

Prior to getting to know this person better, what were some conclusions you drew about them or their story?

What have you grown to appreciate about them now that you have gotten to know them more fully?

As author Peter Scuzzero says, *"Every time I make an assumption about someone without confirming it, I am at risk for believing a lie about this person. My assumption is just a breath away from misrepresenting reality ... and effectively bearing false witness against my neighbor."*

What's your response to this quotation, especially that making assumptions about a person borders on bearing false witness against them? (Exodus 20:16)

What groups or categories of people are you most likely to make assumptions about, and what are these assumptions?

What emotions are often attached to these assumptions for you? (e.g. fear, anger, disgust, etc.)

Given the words of Matthew 7:3-4, what personal blind spots might be informing your conclusions about these people, and how might you go about addressing them?

What current relationship do you have where you're prone to believe narratives about this person that may not be true?

How might having a conversation with them, or clarifying your expectations, improve your relationship with them and potentially eliminate future misunderstandings?

How can your group be praying for you and supporting you in response to this week's message and discussion?

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