

November 6th, 2016  
Sermon Notes

## Growth Group Discussion

### Fall Session

### Week 8

We use these times to *grow spiritually and to deepen our relationships.*

#### Reflection and Vulnerability Opportunity

We want people to know us deeply, but we can shudder at being “too vulnerable” because people can:

##### **Expose us.**

We fear people because they can expose and humiliate us.

##### **Reject us.**

We fear people because they can reject, ridicule, or despise us.

##### **Hurt us.**

We fear people because they can attack, oppress, or threaten us.

**Try to think of a time in your life** where you experienced being exposed, rejected, or hurt in such an intense or traumatic way that the memory sticks with you even today. Think about whether from that you may have made a decision to “never ever let that happen again.”

**If you are willing, share with the group.** It may be hard to share, but try to be bold—the more you can break the bonds of fear in a safe place, the better.

**Group, prepare your minds to focus on seeing it through the perspective of the person sharing and empathize.**

**This one activity alone for your growth group** could produce huge victories in people’s lives.

### Bible Character Discussion

- In what ways can you relate to Aaron?
- Why do you think the Israelites were so keen on creating an idol that was clearly man-made?
- In what ways may the temptation to fear of man been different for Moses than for Aaron?
- Why didn’t Moses fall into the same trap?

### Identify Worksheet

Do you ever fear other people’s expectations or judgment and find yourself thinking, “What if they...?”

- Take a couple of minutes to dig deep and meditate on this and write down some examples of when that happens in your life here. Share with others when you can.

### Getting Deeper

- Read Exodus 32:1 — “When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”
- How did the surrounding Middle East culture contribute to the Israelites making the golden calf?
- **What do you think your “golden calf” is? Share.**
- How does the surrounding US culture set traps for you?

Read Exodus 20:1-5 — And God spoke all these words: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. “You shall have no other gods before me. “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them...”

# **Growth Group Feedback**

**Here in Jacksonville, we have a strong culture of innovation and improvement. We know we are not perfect, and we want to constantly strive to get better at reflecting Jesus and maturing spiritually.**

**Since growth groups are a key building block of the maturation process, please write on a piece of paper some valuable feedback that only YOU can provide.**

**Please simply let us know,  
“What’s working, What’s not, and Why.”  
You can hand it in to your growth group facilitator, host, or Paul Trimble.**

**Not anonymous is optimal, but if you feel you need to remain anonymous, then so be it. Thank You!**

## **Family Reminders**

### **Camping Trip next weekend!!**

We will have an abbreviated communion service at 10:45 here at the Jax building for anyone not going camping. See the electronic newsletter for more camping info! If you have space on your site for others to pitch a tent, please let Rich Osgood know at 904-626-5348 or [rcosgo@gmail.com](mailto:rcosgo@gmail.com). If you want to join us and would like to be added to a waiting list, also please let Rich know.