

LIFE GROUP GUIDE - Week Starting Sunday 18th October

Key Scripture – Ephesians 4:15-32

This Week's BIG IDEA

Friends speak the truth to one another in love, even if it is challenging. Our goal is always restoration and sanctification.

Focussing on God

Remember that first we follow Jesus, and out of the overflow of His love for us we are able to love our friends. Listen to The Jesus Way by Phil Wickham: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARSGgC9iQb0>

Discipleship Discussion

Read Ephesians 4:15-32 as the passages that anchor these truths, and then spend a moment together reflecting on what jumped out at you.

- Why is it important for the whole body to speak the truth in love to one another? (*See 1 Cor 12*)
- What hinders openness in friendship?
(*Leader's note: v20-24 is helpful here in being renewed, also v26-29 in practical terms.*)

Re-read Ephesians 4:29 again, then read 1 Thessalonians 5:11

- How often do you receive positive affirmation from friends in the church?
- How well do you receive it?

Read Proverbs 27:5-6

- Do you have anyone in your life who has permission to speak hard truths to you? If not, what can you do about that?
- How do we tend to respond to criticism? How could we improve?

Read Matthew 18:15-17

- How do we decide if we are the right person to point out the fault of another?
- How can that be done sensitively?
- How could we be better at applying the gospel to our friends' lives?
- What steps could we take to prevent ourselves from using inappropriate words in speech, or even electronically?
- In what situations do we have to be on our guard against gossip?

Missional focus

Who would you say is the Peter, James & John in your life?

- If they are in your Life Group, spend some time together praying that you would be accountable to one another.
- If they are not in your Life Group, spend some time praying for them, and reflecting on how you can be more open and honest with one another.
- If you cannot name them, the best place to start is with the Life Group you meet with weekly. Ask some folks in your group if you can be accountable to them, and pray for one another.

This is a challenge, but don't allow embarrassment to let you withdraw! Personal discipleship is one of the best ways we can serve the body and encourage one another to be more and more Christ-like. We all need friends to help us with this.