

This guide is intended to help you be better prepared to make disciples in your small group. It is based on the Sunday sermon listed in the top right corner. If you missed Sunday, make sure you listen to the sermon before your small group meeting. The messages are also on our website.

Prayerfully considering these questions will help equip you to practice mutual ministry with your family at Vertical. While it's not likely that all of these questions will be asked during your small group meeting, we believe that your personal walk with Christ will be strengthened as you meditate upon the truths that God is teaching you through His Word.

1. Pastor Joe said, "Sometimes the most destructive words that you'll ever speak are the ones that you never say." Can you think of a time when your silence had negative consequences? What held you back from speaking up?
2. Where is God calling you right now to confront sin in your life, your family, or your community with courage?
3. What's the difference between pretending nothing happened and genuine forgiveness?
4. Absalom's calculating quiet of unresolved anger proved to be deadly, not peaceful. How can unresolved anger or bitterness affect our relationships and spiritual life?
5. How does remembering that God did not remain silent but spoke through Christ change the way we respond to sin and suffering?
6. Where specifically is God calling you this week to break silence—with courage, forgiveness, or comfort—and what step of obedience will you take?
7. What is the right way to confront the sin of a friend? Why is it so important to get involved?
8. Pastor Joe said that "anger is a gift from the Lord". How do you distinguish between righteous anger that moves toward action and sinful anger? Can you think of a time when righteous anger prompted you to act?
9. In your marriage or close relationships, are there "little things" you're holding onto and not addressing? How might your silence be functioning as a weapon rather than peacemaking?
10. Think about the Office Depot illustration. How does remembering your own need for forgiveness change your ability to forgive others? Share an example from your own life