



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Ice Breaker: Who do you consider to be your BFF and why? Do you have their phone # memorized or do you have to look it up?

Instructions: If your group meets bi-weekly, answer 3 & 4.

1. Pastor Tom said, "Just because we have a genuine faith in Jesus does not create an immunity barrier for us when it comes to relationship struggles....Everyone struggles with relationships and we will throughout our lives." How have you experienced/observed this reality? What parts of relationships do you find most difficult? Have you found success in some areas? If so, how did it occur?
2. Read Luke 9:53-54, Matthew 19:14 and Mark 9:33-34: Pastor Tom gives 3 examples of Jesus' disciples struggling with selfishness. What are the situations? How does Jesus react to the situations? How do the situations affect the relationships among the disciples? What can we learn from these 3 situations?
3. Read Matthew 18:21-22. Jesus' answer to Peter seemed to take him by surprise because He was saying we should always offer forgiveness. Why was Jesus' answer so shocking? Do we truly believe we should always offer forgiveness? What does God's forgiveness look like? Have you found it difficult to forgive someone in your life? What are we currently doing to progress toward forgiveness of an unforgivable situation? How can our group support you as you take steps toward forgiveness?
4. Read Colossians 3:1-15. What traits mark our earthly nature? What other traits do these verses urge us to rid ourselves of? What traits mark God's chosen people? How should we treat other people? How can we apply these lessons to our lives today?

PERSONAL GUIDE FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12TH

DAY 1 - Luke 9:51-56 Samaritans were openly hostile to Jews. Note Jesus' reaction to his disciples when they encounter this hostility firsthand.

DAY 2 - Matthew 19:13-15, Mark 10:13-16 & Luke 18:15-17 What can we learn from Jesus' response to the disciples in this story?

DAY 3 - Mark 9:30-37 & Matthew 16:21-28 How were the disciples mistaken about Jesus' mission? What is Jesus asking of them?

DAY 4 - Matthew 18:21-35 What does Jesus teach about forgiveness in this passage?

DAY 5 - Colossians 3:1-15 As you read these verses, reflect on how God's power allows us to change our relationships.

FURTHER READING - God not only healed Cean's eyes, He changed the way people looked at him. Go to http://bit.ly/Fresh_Look to read more.

MOUNTAIN-TOP
SUNDAYS

ROCK-BOTTOM
MONDAYS

DEVELOPING A ROCK-SOLID FAITH

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION // PERSONAL GUIDES

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12TH, 2017



“It’s Hard to Like You”
[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

..._____ faith...is often far messier, difficult, and challenging than we think it should be.

Real faith in our real lives includes moments of _____, seasons of struggles, and how to choose the spiritual disciplines of life we would have never chosen for ourselves that God uses in His spiritual growth plan (Part 2) to make us more like Jesus.

_____ are a huge part of how real faith works and doesn’t work in our lives.

Real faith looks like:

1. The Struggle for _____ Relationships

Just because we have a genuine faith in Jesus does not create an _____ barrier for us when it comes to relationship struggles.

The problem is all of us struggle with _____.

And selfishness is a relationship _____.

Note Luke 9:53-54; Matthew 19:14; Mark 9:33-34

Everyone struggles with relationships and we will _____ our lives.

2. The _____ Cause of Relationship Problems
(note Matthew 18:21-22)

The teaching of the religious leaders at this time was that you only had to forgive someone up to _____ times.

So Peter is actually _____ that and adding one more...

But Jesus sets the _____ for relationship conflicts and navigating hurts and wrongs incredibly high.

3. Why _____ is Crucial for Healthy Relationships

To experience relationships as God designed them to be, we must have God’s _____ at work within us.

We’re going to struggle with relationships our _____.

Struggling with God’s power offers the reality that our relationships can _____. God’s power helps us _____

(Colossians 3:1-15, 16a, NIV) -

(Colossians 3:1-15, NIV) - Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell among you richly...

Mountain-Top Sundays and Rock-Bottom Mondays:

- Relationships are always challenging and sometimes difficult and _____.
- It’s our choice to either navigate relationships ourselves...
- ...or to rely on God’s life and power.
- To forgive = r_____ a person to God...
- Forgiveness is undeserved; _____ is earned.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“It’s Hard to Like You”
Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

...real faith...is often far messier, difficult, and challenging than we think it should be

Real faith in our real lives includes moments of doubt, seasons of struggles, and how to choose the spiritual disciplines of life we would have never chosen for ourselves that God uses in His spiritual growth plan (Part 2) to make us more like Jesus.

Relationships are a huge part of how real faith works and doesn't work in our lives.
Real faith looks like:

1. The Struggle for Healthy Relationships

Just because we have a genuine faith in Jesus does not create an immunity barrier for us when it comes to relationship struggles.

The problem is all of us struggle with selfishness.
And selfishness is a relationship killer.

Note Luke 9:53-54; Matthew 19:14; Mark 9:33-34
Everyone struggles with relationships and we will throughout our lives.

2. The Biggest Cause of Relationship Problems (note Matthew 18:21-22)

The teaching of the religious leaders at this time was that you only had to forgive someone up to 3 times.
So Peter is actually doubling that and adding one more...
But Jesus sets the bar for relationship conflicts and navigating hurts and wrongs incredibly high.

3. Why Faith is Crucial for Healthy Relationships

To experience relationships as God designed them to be, we must have God's power at work within us.
We're going to struggle with relationships our entire lives.

Struggling with God's power offers the reality that our relationships can grow.
God's power helps us change...

(Colossians 3:1-15, 16a, NIV) -

(Colossians 3:1-15, NIV) - *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell among you richly...*

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- To forgive = releasing a person to God...
- Forgiveness is undeserved; trust is earned.

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