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GROUND RULES FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

SAFE GROUP: We will all do our part to create an environment where everyone can be real, open and honest with their struggles and victories.

CONFIDENTIALITY: What is said in the group stays in the group.

LISTEN: Our goal is to disciple one another. We must listen to what the other people in our group are saying so that we can hear what the Holy Spirit wants to say through them.

PAUSE: Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares to give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

SILENCE: It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or question being considered. Most importantly, it creates opportunities to listen to our Teacher, the Holy Spirit.

NO "CROSS TALK": Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations – and that includes being on your phone!

NO FIXING: We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement; speak truth and point to Jesus. Don't try to solve or fix each other.

NO RESCUING: When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing.

SHARE THE AIR: Be sensitive about the amount of time you share and how many times you share.

DON'T PING-PONG: This is when 2-3 people monopolize the conversation while everyone else's heads bounce back and forth as they watch.

BE SELF-AWARE: Be self-aware of how you are personally effecting the environment through your words, actions and non-verbal communication.

USE "I" STATEMENTS: It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "us", "we", etc.

USE HUMOR RESPONSIBLY: Humor can be very relational, and it can be a relationship killer. Choose your moments wisely.

RESOLVE CONFLICT BIBLICALLY: We will commit to resolve conflict biblically. When conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues.