



Intelectual Honesty

Evidence that demands a verdict.

Week 2: April 7-13

20min

Introduce Guests/Share Life: *How has this week been going? Good? Bad? Ugly? Things to celebrate?*

Open in Prayer: *Include any prayer needs that came up while you were sharing life together.*

Recall the Guidelines: *Ask: "What is the purpose of the guidelines?" Answer: To be relational!*

2min

Share the Vision: *We are all broken people. We need relationship with God and with each other to walk in recovery from our brokenness. This group is a place to be honest and share this journey together.*

5min

Hook Question: When you were a kid, what did you know about Jesus? How has your view of Jesus changed since that time?

5min

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

The people of Jesus's day did not know exactly what to make of Jesus. Their view of Him was constantly changing. Some saw Him as a great moral teacher. Some considered Him to be a prophet. Others thought He was a mad man and demon-possessed. Very few understood at that time who Jesus really is: He is God.

Jesus walked the earth in the first century A.D. He was born a Jew and He lived in Israel among the Jewish people. In Jewish culture, everyone knew that only God had the power to forgive sins. This was the right belief and it was based on the teachings of scriptures.

In today's story, Jesus tells a man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." The people who heard this, especially the teachers of the law, would have immediately been shocked by this statement! They knew that only God had authority to forgive sins. By saying these words, Jesus was claiming to be God. Why did Jesus say this? How did He back up His claim? This is where our story begins...

15min

Tell the story from Mark 2:1-12: *Use different storytellers. Teach your group to share God's Word.*

Rebuild the story: *Group members retell the story based on what they remember.*

Read the story from Mark 2:1-12: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word with others...

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What do you like or dislike about this story?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- Who do you relate to in this story? Why?

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

- What do you think God is trying to show you right now? How do you need to change?
- Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?

Thank your storyteller for sharing the Word. Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week.
Close in prayer.



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Week 2: The Group Guidelines

Group Guidelines: Confidentiality

Understand the Goal

All the guidelines we use for small group are important. They all work together to help create a relational environment. A relational environment is a place where people feel safe to share transparently and are not worried about feeling judged, ignored, or betrayed. Remember, the target of our church is not small groups – it is real-life relationships. We must create relational environments if we want others to share real-life relational discipleship together.

Remember, a real-life relationship is a relationship where I give you the right to know everything about me, and you give me the right to know everything about you.

Confidentiality Explained

Once we understand the goal, it is easy to see why this first ground rule is essential if we want to create a relational environment. Confidentiality is the agreement that what is shared in group will stay in group unless you have my permission.

When a group breaks confidentiality, it immediately breaks trust. The person who breaks confidentiality has betrayed the confidence of the person who shared in group. At the very moment confidentiality is broken, the relationship is in jeopardy and conflict is born. Violating this guideline can lead to relational conflict that damages the group or causes people to leave.

When we understand how serious this guideline is for a relational environment it builds in us a motivation to protect confidentiality. The first step to protecting confidentiality in your group is to do your part to prevent breaches. This begins by reviewing the guidelines every week in your group. Additionally, at times, you should plan to go into more detail about what the guidelines are and why they are important. This is especially true when you have a visitor join your group. Helping others understand the need for confidentiality and the importance of it is the best way for you to intentionally lead your group to share a relational environment together.

But what about when confidentiality is broken?

Each situation of conflict resolution has unique elements; however, the principles are always the same. When someone betrays the trust of the group, they should be challenged to go to the person(s) they betrayed and seek their forgiveness. If they cannot resolve the issue one-to-one, a mediator (most likely you as the intentional group leader) needs to get involved. If the issue still cannot be resolved, you should bring the situation to the attention of your coach or to our small group pastor (Brandon Werner) and ask for help.

We will look closer at biblical conflict resolution soon.