

Unexplainable

Week 6 - Lead Sheet

ICEBREAKER

Questions: What is a unique fact about you that no one else here knows? (Claim to fame; brush with fame; hidden talent; etc.)

Questions: What was your most embarrassing moment as a child?

SILENCE

LEADER... Spend 5 minutes in silence together. Breathe deeply. Quiet your mind. Allow the worries, concerns, and distractions to dissipate from your mind.

Begin by praying something similar with the group:

“Father, please quiet our minds and still our hearts. Protect us from the distractions that plague our thoughts stirring anxiety within our hearts. Please, fix our eyes on Jesus as we silently come before you to listen. Draw near to us. Allow us to feel your divine presence in our midst. May we be attentive to the still, small, quiet voice of your Spirit.”

LAST WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Last week we asked... “Begin to pray about how God wants you to engage more deeply in making disciples. Seek to discern how God might be beckoning you to partner with him more fully in this great endeavor.”

Questions: How did it go? Did God reveal to you some ways that you can engage in disciple making? Did God lay anyone on your heart that he might be leading you to intentionally disciple? Are there any ways we can pray for you in this endeavor?

THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTIONS

Questions: Did anyone here steal something as a kid or cheat on a test in high school or lie to get out of a speeding ticket? Would you be willing to share the story?

Questions: Why is it that we're more willing to share about something sinful in our past than something sinful in our present? Why would we be more prone to share a sin we use to struggle with rather than a sin we are currently wrestling with?

ENGAGING WITH SCRIPTURE

John 8:3–6 (ESV): *The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to [Jesus], “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.*

Question: Why do you think adultery is sinful? What harm does it do to two people committing adultery? What trauma does it cause to the spouses and children of the two people involved? What damage does it do to the friends and community of the two people involved?

Question: In light of the widespread pain and suffering adultery causes do you think it's good that God deems it sinful?

Question: If you didn't know the rest of the story, what do you think Jesus should do or what punishment do you think is appropriate for a man and a woman who have ripped two families apart and done great damage to their community? (Obviously the men who only brought the woman to Jesus have their sinful agenda, but if they were both there what should Jesus do?)

John 8:7–11 (ESV): *And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”*

Question: Whose sin does Jesus bring up first? Who does Jesus protect in this scenario? Does this seem odd or different from the way religious people typically handle sin?

Question: When Jesus speaks to the woman he says two things about her sin. What does he say first? What does it mean that he doesn't condemn her?

Question: What's the first thing we typically say to a person that has been caught in sin?

Question: Do you think the woman was aware that she was living in sin? What do you think she felt as her sin was publicly put on display?

Question: How do you think she felt when the first thing Jesus said to her was, "I don't condemn you?"

Question: Why do you think that Jesus follows up this merciful, grace-filled response with "go, and from now on sin no more?" What does sin do to our lives? Does it affect us positively or negatively? When we're living in sin who is in control: us or sin?

Romans 8:1 (ESV): *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

Question: How would it affect your willingness to share about your wrestle with current sin if you knew that you would never be condemned or judged in this group?

Question: What would need to change so that this place, this group was THE safe place to journey, to struggle, to fail, and to openly share our wrestle with sin?

RHYTHM OF INTIMACY

James 5:16 (ESV): *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

Take 5 minutes to pray silently as a group. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you sin that you haven't confessed. Then confess that sin to God and ask for his forgiveness. Remember, prayer is not a place to be good, it's a place to be honest.

Then have an open space for people to confess sin to the group so that healing can be prayed over them. (When someone shares say something like this, "I'm so sorry you've had to wrestle with this sin and that it's had power over you. You need to know that you are God's beloved daughter or son and that there is NO condemnation for you by God or by us here." Then immediately have someone pray healing over that person)

Remember that when someone confesses sin to us our job is to:

- protect them
- comfort them
- remind them of truth of God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness
- pray for them
- then walk with them into freedom from the slavery of their sin

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Pray everyday this week that God would reveal to you someone in this group or someone outside this group that is trustworthy that you can begin to confess your sin to on a regular basis. Then invite them into that space in your life.

Question: How can we as a group encourage you in this and keep you accountable to what God is leading you into?