

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

For October 3, 2021 sermon:

***Connect: "We grow better in relationship"***

**Warm up:**

1. This should be fun...we are taking a page from what the students have been doing in our youth ministry for some time. They begin their study time by sharing their "Happy and Crappy" for the week. The best and worst of their week. So go around the table or circle and have everyone share their "Happy" and their "Crappy" for the past week.

2. Do you have a story to tell about how you were talked to as a child and young person? Was your family affirming or was their name calling and put-downs?

**Digging deeper:** (20-30 minutes)

1. The Bible has so much to say about the power of our words. Read and briefly discuss the lessons from these 9 verses (ALL from Proverbs).

-Proverbs 11:9

-Proverbs 11:12

-Proverbs 15:1

-Proverbs 15:4

-Proverbs 16:24

-Proverbs 18:4

-Proverbs 18:20

-Proverbs 20:15

-Proverbs 25:18

Many of us have heard the popular saying- "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me!" Is this true? With the above scriptures in mind, talk about the importance of how we use our words in our relationships...starting with family.

2. The last principle in the message was about the power of vulnerability. King David (in the Psalms) and the Apostle Paul are certainly two of the most vulnerable people in the Bible. David shared the agonizing pain of betrayal in one verse, then the elation of knowing he was in God's loving care the next. In Romans 7:7-25, Paul shares about his personal struggle with sin (especially verses 15 and 19). Read these verses together (maybe a few share the reading) then discuss what it would take for YOU to ever get to the place where you were that open about your own struggle with sin. Have you ever found God's healing and power through the sharing of a struggle with a trusted friend? Have you ever felt betrayed after sharing a struggle?

**Apply it:** (10 minutes)

Pray: As a group, have everyone share the name of an unsaved person God has placed on their heart to reach. Make a list and pray for each other's friends. If you did this in a previous gathering...any updates?

Share: Each of you choose someone outside your group and church to show the love of Jesus to in a practical way. Who is that person in your life? What will you do?

Serve: Talk about a project you could do together (physical? financial?) in the next few weeks to bless someone outside your group. How can your group have an impact?