

Control Issues: Phones Mark 4

Getting Started:

- One last time before summer go through the Community Group Guidelines together.
- Take a moment to talk about how you are going to connect over the summer and who you can invite to be part of it.
- Have you ever felt convicted about how or how often you are on your phone? If so, when? If not, why?

Read Mark 4:1-20 or use the Bible Storytelling Technique:

- What does the sower represent? What does the seed represent? What does the ground represent?
- What things kept the seed from bearing fruit? (vs 4-7)
- How did Jesus explain the meaning of these things to the disciples? (vs 15-19)
- How does growth happen? (vs 20) What is the evidence of full growth?

Moving Forward:

- How can your phone act as both seed and the things keeping the seed from growing in our lives?
- Outside of work there are many times we are on our phones because we are bored; other times it steals our attention from what is happening in front of us; or we may be trying to avoid what needs to be done. Which is most true for you and what might you be missing?
- Set a goal: What is one thing you could do this week to be less distracted by your phone and more intentional about encouraging growth in your relationship with Jesus?

Before you leave set up the details for next week's celebration.



COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDELINES

Confidentiality

Keeping things that are shared in the group confidential builds trust and shows value to the person. Confidentiality can prevent gossip that only values the story; Jesus always valued the person above their story or their sin.

Don't Rescue & Don't Fix

When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful there can be a tendency to try and make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in their not going as deep as they might have gone. Resist the temptation to rescue people. Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you can offer some advice.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. Don't have side conversations. Trust is built in the moments when everyone feels like they are being listened to and heard by the entire group. Treat others in the group as you would want to be treated.

Use Humor Responsibly

Fun is an essential part of Small Groups; however, when meeting in the Biblical Storytelling time keep sarcastic comments, jokes and laughter to a minimum to allow for an atmosphere of authenticity and vulnerability.

Give Everyone a Chance to Share

Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Encourage everyone to participate in group discussions.

Use "I" Statements

During small group, we want to hear your personal thoughts and perspectives. Using "I" statements to answer discussion questions allows you to speak for yourself rather than generalizing by using terms such as "them", "the church", "us" or "we".

Fight for Relationship

Relationships reaches a whole new level when conflict is resolved in a healthy manner. When conflict or sin issues arise between group members, commit to fight for the relationship and discuss the struggle with the person you are in conflict with or seek wise advice.