

Community Group

Week of September 11

Matthew 22:1-14

Today's big idea: There is another way.

- Share with each other what kind of work you do and/or have done.
- Now go around again and share what you wanted to do or what you dreamed of doing as a kid.
- Review the Community Group Guidelines together and practice examples of what NOT to do with each guideline.

Bible Study

- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.
- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the parable of the Great Feast as found in Matthew 22:1-14.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from the Bible.
- What surprised you in this story both good and bad?
- Think about all the people the king invited. How did the king present them with another way and how did they respond?
- Who do you most relate with in the story and why?

As You Go

- Talk about a time in which you were going one way and then God showed you another way in Christ.
- What is God challenging you to do in light of this story?
- Pray for each other and for opportunities to share what God is teaching you today. Pray also for the people you will invite to RESET Sunday on September 18th. (Find more info at hfcog.org/RESET.)



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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.