

Community Group

Week of November 20

Matthew 16:13-24

Today's big idea: Risk is a Process

- Ask for a volunteer to be blindfolded. Then throw some objects on the floor and guide that person across the room without stepping on any of the items using only your voices. Feel free to let others take a turn being blindfolded.
- What made this exercise easy? What made it hard? Did you prefer wearing the blindfold or giving directions and why? If you did it again what would you do differently?
- Read a Community Group Guideline and then have someone from the group explain what it means. Repeat for all the guidelines.

Bible Study

- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.
- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story of Peter and Jesus.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from Matthew 16:13-24 in the Bible.

- How did Jesus challenge his disciples, and Peter specifically, beyond their comfort zones?
- What were the short and long term results of the risk Peter took in the first story? What about the second story?
- What lessons did Jesus teach in response to those risks?

Going Deeper

- How much does the fear of failure impact your willingness to take risks with Jesus?
- What are some ways in which God has been challenging you recently?
- How are you processing those challenges with God and others? If you aren't, then why not?
- Close your time together by sharing prayer requests and praying for each other.



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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.