

Community Group

Week of November 27

Mark 9:14-29

Today's big idea: During the Christmas season we often talk about faith but many times the Reality of Christmas is a struggle with disbelief.

- What is your favorite thing to do over the holiday season and what is your least favorite thing to do?
- What are your favorite Community Group Guidelines?

Bible Study

- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.
- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story of Jesus healing a boy possessed by an impure spirit.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from Mark 9:14-29 in the Bible.

- How did Jesus respond to the situation in front of him?
- What was the problem with the father saying, "If you can"?
- How could the father both believe and have unbelief at the same time?

Going Deeper

- Like the father how do you believe and have unbelief at the same time?
- What do you do with your doubts and disbelief? Do you take them to Jesus? If so, how? If not, why?
- How can you help other people who are struggling with doubt and disbelief?
- 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.