

Community Group

Week of January 1

John 4:19-26

Today's big idea: Worship matters.

- Revisit each of the Community Group Guidelines and why they are so important for the group.
- What different churches have you been a part of and how did they each express worship differently?

Bible Study

- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.
- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story Jesus with the woman at the well.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from John 4:19-26 in the Bible.

- Read 2 Kings 17:27-34. Why were the Jews not supposed to associate with the Samaritans?
- According to Jesus, it no longer matters where you worship but how you worship. What does it mean to worship in the Spirit and in truth?

Going Deeper

- Would you say that you worship God in the Spirit and in truth? Why or why not?
- How might things from your past or what others might think about you impact how you worship?
- As we start 2023, how can we take steps toward worshipping God in the Spirit and in truth?
- 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.