

How To...

Community Group

Acts 5:17-42 /// Week of May 14

Today's big idea: Suffering can lead to rejoicing.

- Suffering and rejoicing don't seem to go together. What are two things that you like together that others might think is strange?
- Review the Community Group Guidelines together.
- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.

Head

- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story of the apostles suffering.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from Acts 5:17-42 in the Bible.
- What do we know about the apostles that would have led them to respond throughout this story the way they did?
- In this story was going to jail and being flogged good or bad? Why?

Heart

- The suffering of the apostles was physical. How have you experienced suffering and how did you respond to it?
- The response of the apostles seems supernatural. Could you envision yourself responding the way the apostles did? Why or why not?

Hands

- What are things that have helped you or other you know to endure suffering?
- What are some things that you could do now that might also help you navigate suffering in your life?
- Take some time before you pray to talk about and plan your Celebration Week during the last week of May.
- Pray for each other and those you know who may be suffering in one way or another.

Community Group Member Covenant

• I will make attendance a priority in my schedule and involvement a priority in my participation. • I will build trust by holding in confidence those things shared in the Community Group. • I will engage with a disciple maker—someone that will help me grow as a disciple of Jesus and teach me how to be a disciple maker as well.



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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.