

Growth Group News

Elective signups are here! Sign up in the Lobby today!

Family Matters: Peacemaking

Ephesians 4:25-32

INSTRUCTIONS: THESE QUESTIONS ARE INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE US TO THINK MORE DEEPLY ABOUT OUR FAITH IN VIEW OF THE SERMON. YOU MAY NOT GET TO EVERY QUESTION. ONE QUESTION MAY PROMPT OTHER FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS OR CAUSE A LARGER DISCUSSION. OUR PURPOSE ISN'T TO "DISCUSS THE SERMON" SO MUCH AS IT IS TO TAKE OUR CONSIDERATION OF THE PASSAGE DEEPER SO THAT WE CAN LIVE CHANGED LIVES.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Have you ever regifted a Christmas present that you received and given it to someone else?

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTION

Do you need prayer for your own prodigal?

UNDERSTANDING QUESTIONS

Questions:

1. Think about your last "fight" in your family. Was it really that big a deal? What was your part in making a tough situation worse? What heart attitudes in your heart contributed to making this bad situation worse? How might this play into the idea, "It takes two to tango"?
2. Read Ephesians 4:25-32 out loud. Isn't it amazing that this blueprint for unity in the body of Christ, His Church, is also a roadmap for not only avoiding but resolving conflict? Look at the verbs (the actions words) and the actions and attitudes they call us to. Take a few moments to discuss how this roadmap for peacemaking is all about the heart condition of the reader.
3. Read Ephesians 4:15-16 and 26-27. Is it possible to speak the truth in a way that is harmful? What are ways you can (or have) use (used) the truth as a weapon to harm rather than to build up and heal?
4. How might conflict in your home, life, marriage, workplace, or classroom give the devil an opportunity (Ephesians 4:26)? How might unrestrained, unproductive anger give the devil an opportunity (see Ephesians 4:26-27)?
5. Read verses 29-31. Notice how the Apostle Paul first addresses actions (v. 29) and then the underlying attitudes that promote them (v. 31). Sandwiched between vv. 29 and 31 is verse 30, reminding us that when we choose conflict over peacemaking, sin over righteousness, that we grieve God both in word and in attitude. Shouldn't verse 30 be enough to stop us dead in our tracks before we sin? How might an awareness of God's presence transform our homes and our relationships?
6. Verse 32 is rather convicting. So often we experience "tearful nights" and "angry dawns" because we refuse to forgive. What if God treated us the way we treat those whom we say we love? Do we really have any right to withhold forgiveness from those who honestly and humbly seek it?
7. When it comes to your attitude toward peacemaking and resolving conflict, why is it that our Christian conduct does not depend upon the performance of others?