



Note to Leaders: Every Link is Different. Don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group

SERMON SYNOPSIS

Throughout our lives, God is working to grow our faith. And you've met people with that kind of faith. They just trust God in good times, and in bad times. They give him credit for the good, and they trust him in the bad. They just have this uncanny, almost sometimes irritating confidence and faith in God's presence in their lives. That's because they've worked with God to allow God to grow their faith, and that's what he wants to do in all of us.

One of the primary ways God grows our faith is through other people. When we became Christians God adopted us into His family (Ephesians 1:5) and He uses our relationships with others to grow our faith. He uses providential relationships and also the community we are a part of i.e. small groups, teams to impact our faith. We are also part of His plan to grow other people's faith; as we are transformed in community He also uses us to do the same for other people. In this discussion, we will explore the relationship between our faith and our relationship with other people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)- God adopted us into His own family when we put our faith in Him. What was your experience growing up in your family? Does your childhood family experience impact how you relate to other people? (i.e. are you more open to sharing? are you less likely to give trust? are you more guarded?)
2. How has that helped or hindered you from building community with the people around you?
3. What has your past experience of church community been like? Has it been positive? Has it been challenging? In what way?
4. Is there anything that you may be holding on to that might be stopping you from engaging with church community right now? If so, is there anything you could do to help you move forward?
5. Have you had a significant relationship that impacted your faith and helped it grow (a providential relationship)? In what way has this impacted your journey with God?
6. Do you feel like you can build authentic, real relationships in this small group? Is there anything you can do as a group to be more intentional about cultivating an honest, real, caring and accountable environment in your group?
7. Read Luke 10:25-37. What are some reasons that you might 'keep walking' when you know someone is in need? How good are you at noticing other people's need? In what way could it cost you to be aware of someone else's situation?
8. What is your biggest take away from this conversation or this Sunday's message?
9. How will this change your actions in the future? Is there anything practical that you can put in place to make sure you apply the truth that you've discovered?
10. Parents/ Grandparents: if you knew that you could potentially be a providential relationship in your child/ grandchild's life...would that change the way you interact with them? What would you be more intentional about doing or not doing?

MOVING FORWARD

What ways do you think God wants to use you to grow someone else's faith?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (John 13:35)