

My Bad

The Better Way To Belong

Week Four | Choose Unity | 10.19-20.2019

Grow Deep Conversation Questions: Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90 minute group gathering.

Message Recap: Conflict is hard, but when we avoid it life gets even harder. What does it truly look like to follow Jesus' model of conflict resolution? How do healthy boundaries actually protect not just ourselves, but those who are continuing to hurt us and/or others?

» Opening (2-3 minutes)

- Introductions - this is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members
- Housekeeping - clarify expectations
 - **Announcements:** These are in your Community News email. **Please read and communicate! Encourage participation!**
 - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting.
 - **Remember there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - open your time together in prayer

» Introduction (15 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: Look back at Matthew 18:15-16. Recap what Jesus has taught up until this point about handling conflict with others.
- Digging Deeper: How would you define unity within our church? Can unity and conflict coexist? Why or why not?

» Observation | Read Matthew 18:17-20 (12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to this passage? What is encouraging or challenging? Why? What do you notice about God?

» Lie #4 | I can belong without accountability. (10 minutes)

- How do you respond to people who consistently enjoy conflict/drama in your life? Describe what accountability looks like in your life.

» Protecting People | Reread Matthew 18:17 (10 minutes)

- What would you do in order to protect those closest to you? Are your closest friends in or out of the faith community? Does it matter?

» Protecting Progress | Reread Matthew 18:18-19 (10 minutes)

- Are you willing to protect the progress you have made in your faith? Why? What do healthy boundaries look like? Are they necessary?

» Protecting Presence | Reread Matthew 18:20 (10 minutes)

- How is Jesus making your life better? What are some ways God is working in your life right now that you need to protect?

» Truth #4 | Jesus makes life better...together and forever | (10 minutes)

- Who or what is holding you back from addressing challenging relationships in your life? What healthy boundaries do you need?

» Closing and Prayer | (10 minutes)

- What would you pray for if unity activated God's progress and presence?
- Close by praying for one another to establish the healthy boundaries in order to protect people, progress, and presence.