

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 7, 2013

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY:

1. This week we heard about some crazy conflict and dysfunction happening with Isaac, Rebekah and their family. How we respond to conflict is often affected by how our family handled it when we were growing up. Which of the following statements comes closest to accurately describing how your family handled conflict?

- Run – avoid at all costs!
- It happens – no big deal.
- Let's fight – it seemed to get too far out of control.
- It's there – but no one will talk about it.
- Let's talk – we need to work this out.
- Other

2. When it comes to communication and conflict, being aware of our strengths and weaknesses is important. Sometimes we can be too abrasive, or fall on the other side of the spectrum and be too sensitive. Which one of these two do you think you need to be most aware of?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. A big part of relating to others and dealing with conflict is understanding the power of our words. What principles about communication do you learn from each of the following passages?

Proverbs 15:23

Ephesians 4:29

James 1:19

Proverbs 15:1

Looking at the principles you jotted down above, what would it look like for you to apply any of them with a friend, family member or spouse?

2. In the midst of conflict, one of the problems that can block us from moving toward some kind of resolution is not understanding and empathizing with the other person's point of view. After you read each verse below, write a guideline or benefit to listening and understanding others.

Proverbs 2:11

Proverbs 11:12

Proverbs 20:5

1 Corinthians 10:24

Proverbs 16:22

As you look back at the guidelines you wrote, how would you rate yourself on each (good, fair, needs improvement)?

3. At times we do all we can to communicate effectively yet still find ourselves in an unresolved mess. At that point, input or help from others can become an important option to get headed back in a good direction. How do the following verses reinforce the importance of this idea?

Proverbs 28:23; 29:1

Proverbs 19:20

Hebrews 3:13

Why do you think we find it difficult to allow ourselves to get input from others?

At what point would you be willing to seek input from someone regarding an issue you were dealing with?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's teaching and study, what's the most important thing for you to remember?

Do you have any prayer requests you'd like to share with your group?

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DIGGING DEEPER

1. A big part of relating to others and dealing with conflict is understanding the power of our words. What principles about communication do you learn from each of the following passages?

Proverbs 15:23

23 A person finds joy in giving an apt reply—
and how good is a timely word! [NIV]

Ephesians 4:29

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. [NIV]

James 1:19

Listening and Doing

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, [NIV]

Proverbs 15:1

1 A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger. [NIV]

Looking at the principles you jotted down above, what would it look like for you to apply any of them with a friend, family member or spouse?

2. In the midst of conflict, one of the problems that can block us from moving toward some kind of resolution is not understanding and empathizing with the other person's point of view. After you read each verse below, write a guideline or benefit to listening and understanding others.

Proverbs 2:11

11 Discretion will protect you,
and understanding will guard you. [NIV]

Proverbs 11:12

12 Whoever derides their neighbor has no sense,
but the one who has understanding holds their tongue. [NIV]

Proverbs 20:5

5 The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters,
but one who has insight draws them out. [NIV]

1 Corinthians 10:24

24 No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. [NIV]

Proverbs 16:22

22 Prudence is a fountain of life to the prudent,
but folly brings punishment to fools. [NIV]

As you look back at the guidelines you wrote, how would you rate yourself on each (good, fair, needs improvement)?

3. At times we do all we can to communicate effectively yet still find ourselves in an unresolved mess. At that point, input or help from others can become an important option to get headed back in a good direction. How do the following verses reinforce the importance of this idea?

Proverbs 28:23

23 Whoever rebukes a person will in the end gain favor
rather than one who has a flattering tongue. [NIV]

Proverbs 29:1

1 Whoever remains stiff-necked after many rebukes
will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy. [NIV]

Proverbs 19:20

20 Listen to advice and accept discipline,
and at the end you will be counted among the wise. [NIV]

Hebrews 3:13

13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. [NIV]

Why do you think we find it difficult to allow ourselves to get input from others?

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