

Why Bad

The Better Way To Belong

Week Two | Relationship | 10.05-06.2019

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 ever harder. Many times it feels easier to avoid a difficult conversation, but conflict doesn't go away, instead it just gets worse - like old food in the refrigerator.

» 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: How do you handle conflict? Do you jump right in or run and avoid?
- Digging Deeper: Why do you think you respond to conflict in that way?

» Observation | Read Matthew 18:15 (12 minutes)

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

» Lie #2 | I can belong and bottle up. (10 minutes)

- What types of relationships do you tend to let things bottle up with? How has bottling up past offenses hurt present relationships?

» Go Directly | Reread Matthew 18:15a (10 minutes)

- Instead of going directly to someone, what do we do? What are the benefits of going to someone directly and privately?

» Tell Honestly | Reread Matthew 18:15b; Galatians 6:1 (10 minutes)

- What prevents us from honestly pointing out how we have been wronged? How would you prefer someone to approach you?

» Forgive Generously | Reread Matthew 18:15bc; Matthew 18:32-33 (10 minutes)

- How do you respond when someone asks for forgiveness? What happens when the relationship is leveraged and put on probation?

» Truth #2 | Jesus makes life better...together in any weather | (10 minutes)

- Do you have people you care enough about to have a difficult conversation with rather than abandon the relationship?

» Closing and Prayer | (10 minutes)

- What are you bottling up, carrying around, and not dealing with? Who do you need to talk to this week?
- Close by praying for one another to courageously uncover the past hurts that are preventing you from moving into reconciliation.