

Why Bad

The Better Way To Belong

Week Three | Choose Wisdom | 10.12-13.2019

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 if finding fault wasn't the goal but owning who we are - approaching others with kindness and learning together?

- » **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: Do you fight "dirty," or do you give the other person a fair chance?
 - Digging Deeper: What holds you back from having tough conversations with others? What motivates forgiveness? What is missing?
- » **Observation** | Read Matthew 18:16 (12 minutes)
- What are your initial reactions to this passage? What is encouraging or challenging? Why? What do you notice about God?
- » **Lie #3 | I can belong and pretend** (10 minutes)
- When we have been hurt we might be tempted to hide behind a mask and pretend everything is fine. What damage can this cause?
- » **Wise, Foolish, or Evil** | Reread Matthew 18:16a (10 minutes)
- Not all conversations are created equal. What defines the wise, the foolish, and the evil person? How do they affect conflict?
- » **Phone a Friend** | Reread Matthew 18:16b (10 minutes)
- Jesus talks about bringing one or two mediators along. What characteristics are important for these friends to have?
- » **Facts Over Feelings** | Reread Matthew 18:16c (10 minutes)
- Why is it important to bring the 'evidence' to the conversations instead of your 'emotions'? How can you know if it's too emotional?
- » **Truth #3 | Jesus makes life better...together under pressure** | (10 minutes)
- What are some of the relationships in your life that are worth fighting for? What steps do you need to take to ensure they last?
- » **Closing and Prayer** | (10 minutes)
- Look at John 13:35. How does this verse relate to the way we handle conflict? What does Jesus clearly say we are to do?
 - Close by praying for one another to reflect on the relationships where they have been pretending and to take next steps to reconcile.