



CONNECT - HOW DOES THIS TOPIC RELATE TO US?

Choose 1 or 2 questions to get your discussion started.

1. Tell the group about someone (other than your spouse or significant other) with whom you share your thoughts, worries, and/or hopes on a regular basis.
2. Whom do you turn to in times of trouble? Why?
3. How do you seek feedback from others?
4. When was the last time you received feedback? How did you respond?

ENGAGE - WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH US?

Read the following two passages in light of the idea of accountability.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
- Hebrews 10:24-25

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word “spur”?
2. Why do you think the writer of Hebrews chose a provocative word like “spur?” How could someone “spur you” toward love and good deeds?
3. How have you experienced encouragement by meeting with other Christians regularly? How is it different when you do not have that regular interaction?

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
- Galatians 6:1-2

1. What is sin? How are sinful behaviors determined?
2. What is the responsibility of the community to someone caught in sin? What does this look like?
3. How does carrying each other's burdens fulfill the law of Christ?

APPLY - HOW CAN THIS CHANGE OUR LIVES?

1. What are daily/regular actions we can take to spur one another to love and good deeds?
2. What comes to mind when you think about being accountable to someone? Do you sense resistance? Why?
3. Recall a time when someone shared unhelpful advice or unsolicited solutions after you shared about something personal and challenging in your life. How did you feel? How can you avoid doing the same to others?
4. How can this Community Group help you in your accountability to God?

ACTION STEP

Write down one key commitment that is important right now and ask one person to help you stay accountable.

PRAYER

Invite one person to pray this prayer aloud for the group to close your time together:

Amazing God, you demonstrated your love for us when, while we still sinners, Christ died for us on the cross. We are grateful for your grace and hopeful for how you are continuing to work in us. Give us the courage and wisdom that we need to help one another be accountable for that which is most important in our lives. We pray this in Jesus's name, Amen.

GOING DEEPER - FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. - Proverbs 27:17

- How is accountability between two people like a knife being sharpened by a harder metal or stone? How are you presently experiencing this in your life?

Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. - Ephesians 5:11-13

- Why is there fear of exposing things that happen “in the dark?”
- When have you experienced darkness being exposed to light, and what was the result?

My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins. - James 5:19-20

- When has someone turned you from the error of your ways? Who in your life needs your intervention right now?

Recommended Resources Read *Sacred Companions* by David Benner.