

One Anothering *Small Group Discussion*

Week Three: Words

“The one-anothers, then, are earthly dramas of heavenly realities; they are the love of Christ played out on ten thousand stages.”

Scott Hubbard

How do we care for one another well? The point of small groups is not to be “nice people” that hang out each week during our time together, but rather to be a group of people who love each other and reflect the realities of Christ’s better Kingdom of God.

Each week of this study, we will look at ways Christ modeled this for us and, by his grace, we can extend this to others within and outside the church.

Week 1: Humility

Week 2: Welcome

Week 3: Words

Week 4: Love

Week 5: Grace

LOOK *What do we see around us and in our lives?*

How did someone impact you with their words this week - positively or negatively?

How did that affect you?

Use post-it notes to brainstorm ways you DO SEE encouraging words extended well in your small group and ways you COULD SEE or WOULD LIKE TO SEE this happen in your own life or within your small group. Take a few minutes at the end of your time to revisit these post-it notes and then prayerfully consider what action items would be beneficial for your small group in the upcoming weeks/months.

This is really hard. Sometimes it almost seems impossible. The good news is that Christ has done this perfectly for us.

What does it look like to “one another” with words like Christ? How did he model this for us?

What are some examples within our church?

What can we learn from outside our church?

We can speak “the Word of God” faithfully and accurately only when we listen “with the ears of God” - D. Bonhoeffer (Life Together, 76)

BOOK *What does Scripture say about this? Have smaller groups of 2-3 people look at the context, significance, etc. of these passages and report back to the larger group.*

What are these passages regarding words saying?

Why is this important?

Any other scripture passages to add?

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Encourage one another and build one another up.

John 14

Ephesians 4:29

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.

How do you see this play out in your everyday life?

What do you see when this isn’t happening?

How do we, as a group, reflect the reality of this Kingdom? What could this look like for our group?

What could we experience if we did this well? (think at home, work, church, with neighbors, etc.)

TOOK *What will you take away from today’s discussion?*

Possible questions to consider:

When are your words most helpful? Unhelpful?

How can we encourage you this week with words?

Who needs your encouraging words this week?