

Sermon Based Small Group Questions

Part 5: Authenticity. May 15, 2020



Opening question

1. Share a time when you were justifiably confronted by friend or authority. How did you feel?
2. What elements are required to create the best kind of relationships?

Going Deeper Questions

1. Read Acts 4:32-37 and 5:1-11. Contrast the 2 events. What strikes you?
2. Read Luke 9:23-24 and Romans 12:2. What do these verses say about change and transformation? How is transformation at the heart of the gospel? Why could this message be offensive and threatening?
3. Re-read Acts 4:34. Who are the needy? Read verse 33. What do they all share? What does that imply about *our* communities of faith? What does it imply for your small group?
4. Imagine Ananias and Sapphira in your small group. What would you hope they would have shared? How would you respond?
5. Read Romans 14:13 and 1 Corinthians 1:23. What do they say about offensiveness? What does this mean for our gospel proclamations and gospel living?

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6. What drove Ananias and Sapphira to lie? How have you seen hypocrisy on display in the church large? How is hypocrisy a community killer? How can we resist hypocrisy in us and in our community?
7. In Acts it says of the believers that they had, “all things in common”. What do the people of Hope Church have in common? How should this be freeing to us?
8. Sid said, “you being privatized in your faith walk and life isn’t going to benefit your growth or the growth of the faith community”. How open and honest are you about your life? What masks do you tend to put on? How are you doing with taking off masks?
9. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Matthew 18:20, Proverbs 27:12 and Hebrews 3:13. What are these verses telling you? Do you have a ‘one’ in your life where you have no secrets?”
10. Sid quoted Robert Frost, “How many things have to happen *to* you before something *occurs* to you?” What does this mean in terms of experiencing the transforming power of the Holy Spirit?

Close in Prayer

BLESS Rhythms Summary: (modified)

BLESS: This is the practice of blessing another person. It can be big or small (buying groceries for someone, banging pots at 7pm to show your thanks, checking in with your neighbour). *Who have you blessed this week?*

LISTEN: This is the practice of listening, both to God and to others. *How did you set time aside this week to be a listener?*

E-mail/Text/Video Call. This is the practice of reaching out to someone that comes to your mind while you are in prayer this week. *Who have you connected with this week?*

SPEAK: This is the practice of speaking our faith. It can happen through encouragement, story sharing, and evangelism. *How have you spoken your faith this week?*

SABBATH: This is the practice of resting from work and taking time to rest and enjoy creation. *How are you practicing Sabbath this week?*