



Discipleship Study Questions

For use from 9/11/22-10/8/22



Burned

Many people carry disappointment or wounds from experiences with churches – including Christ The Rock – and these wounds cause people to lose trust in the church, and sometimes even in Jesus. Followers Jesus should be known for their love, but too often we are known for causing harm. In this series, we're going to address church hurts, consider what healing looks like, and explore how to create a culture of goodness at church and in our relationships.

Read the Scripture:

Individual: Read the passage from two or three different translations.

Group: Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

Speak the Scripture:

Individual: Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

Group: Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

Understand the Scripture:

Individual or Group: Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

Dig Deeper into the Scripture:

Individual: Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member, if you choose.

Group: Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

Small Group Guidelines

This is a Safe Group

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

Listen

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

Use "I" Statements

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Over-talk

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

Week 1:

Read: Matthew 9:35-38

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What is Jesus teaching His disciples about what it means to live life in the Kingdom?

What do you think God might be teaching you personally through this passage?

What action do you think the Holy Spirit may be leading you to take with what you've learned this week?

Digging Deeper:

When we talk about building a culture of “tov”, or goodness, how does the response of Jesus help us do that in regards to dealing with church hurt?

Have you ever been burned by someone in the church? Have you ever seen an example of a healthy church culture? Please share your experiences only as much as you are willing.

What area of your story does it comfort you to know that Jesus looks on you with compassion as your Good Shepherd?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the way You love us. You sent Your Son Jesus to us so that we might experience Your grace, love and compassion. We acknowledge that we have all been hurt by Your own people God. But we also acknowledge that sometimes we are the ones doing the hurting. Help us to forgive as You have forgiven us. Holy Spirit, do Your healing work in our hearts. Jesus, help us to be more like You as we seek to labor in Your harvest field to bring your “tov” goodness to this dark world. In the name of Jesus we pray, amen.