

Unlocking Love
Week 2: Honesty
April 18th, 2021

OPENING PRAYER

Have someone in the group invite God's Holy Spirit into our presence. Pray for your encounter with God's Word. Ask God to open your heart and mind to some new understanding and especially to a new way of applying this truth in our daily lives.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

~Safe Group	~Silence	~Sharing
~Confidentiality	~No Cross Talk	~Self-Aware
~Listen	~No Fixing	~"I" Statements
~Pause	~No Rescuing	~Handle Conflict Biblically\

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

Go around the room and briefly share your answer to the following question:

What do you most enjoy about Spring/ this time of year?

INTRODUCTION

As we continue in our series ***Unlocking Love: 4 Keys to Healthy, Happy Relationships***, we move on to key #2 ***Honesty***. Honesty in relationships means telling the truth- but even more importantly, it means ***being*** the truth. Our passage comes from the words of the disciple John in ***1 John 1:5-10***. As our group engages with this scripture be thinking about what is significant about the metaphor that "God is light."

THIS WEEK'S KEY SCRIPTURE: 1 John 1:5-10

Read the passage: Have someone in your group read the passage of scripture as everyone else follows along in their Bible.

DISCUSSION:

Go around the room and share from your heart, remembering the group guidelines.

EXPLORING THE SCRIPTURE:

- What do you notice in this text with new or fresh eyes?
- What do you struggle with?
- What surprises you?
- What encourages you?

ENGAGING THE MESSAGE:

- What does it mean, “God is light?” What does the metaphor of “light” reveal about God?
- John equates “not practicing truth” with “living in spiritual darkness.” How does dishonesty darken your life?
- What are some examples of things we may be spiritually dishonest about? How do we try to fool others and ourselves with subtle forms of dishonesty such as denial - refusal to accept truth - and deflection - blaming things on others?
- What are some of the benefits of honesty? Why might “living in the light” be a better way to live?
- How is “living in the light” essential to happy, healthy relationships?

LIVING IT OUT-APPLICATION:

- **Take time this week for further reflection. Using Psalm 139:23-24, ask God to reveal things in your own heart you need to be honest about. Be willing to confront any “darkness” God shows you, and bring it into the “light.”**

CLOSING PRAYER: Spend some time in prayer, pray for the season we are in, for those that may be affected, for the community, for our world. Pray for one another, for those that might be absent and for prayer requests.