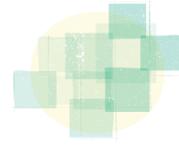


Commonway Small Group Discussion Points May 3 2015



"Your Story Matters: Heroes are flawed characters"

Talk about a hero of yours (fiction or historical). Why do you look up to them? What flaws/weaknesses have they had to overcome?

Discussion:

A. The church should be a place full of grace. A place where we can honestly say, "come as you are." -When we "come as we are," we can link with one another through our brokenness.

- 1. Do you have any personal stories of when "just being yourself" caused an embarrassing moment? (Matt's example of 3rd grade 'dribbling' a soccer ball).**
- 2. Give an example of a time where you felt you were able to "come as you are" without the fear of being shamed, judged, manipulated, or even violated.**

B. Mark 2:17 Jesus responds to the Pharisees who did not understand why Jesus was eating with 'sinners'. "Healthy people do not need a doctor, sick people do. I have come to call sinners, not those who think they are already good enough."

- 1. Who do you most relate to in this passage? a) sinners b) Pharisees c) Jesus**
- 2. What are some practical ways you can create a healthy environment for people to be respected and welcome without feeling pressured to conform to a preconceived notion of "Christianity"?**
- 3. In order to make ourselves feel better, we downplay our brokenness by looking down on other peoples' mistakes. If we are called to live like Jesus, how can we take our brokenness and turn it in to something beautiful? Can you think of a time that you or someone you know has done this?**

C. We all see "gaps" in our life-who we are vs. who we want to be. When we come to the realization that God is better at transforming people than we are, we should take time to examine our own life. **2 Corinthians 12:9-10, and 1 Timothy 1:15 - Read this together and talk about your reactions and thoughts on Paul and what God speaks to him.**

D. Determine where you are on your spiritual journey, and think of ways you could be transformed. **How slow are you to react when people hurt you? How quick are you at admitting your faults?**

E. If we spend our entire life hiding from honest community, because of the fear of being hurt, we will never change. **What would your life look like if you stopped wearing a mask, and became fully known? Does the thought of doing this make you nervous? Why or why not?**

Prayer (or discuss)

Philippians 1:6 'Being Confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.'

Announcements

Service Day at Old West End Saturday at 8.

Men's Group starts next Wednesday.

Small Group Celebration and Olympics Sunday May 17.