

BUILDING BLOCKS OF COMMUNITY

Building Trust

How can I help build a trusting community?

Ice Breaker: What was the most significant thing that happened in your life this week?

Be Trustworthy (read Psalm 15)

1. Psalm 15 describes a person of integrity. Discuss the “marks of a trustworthy person” listed . . . why and how they factor into trustworthiness.
2. If you trust God, is it easier to trust other people? Why or why not?
3. If there was one area you could use some help, what would it be? Which “Fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22-23) might be an answer for that need?

Be Willing To Trust Others – Build Teamwork (read Exodus 18:13-23)

1. What was the problem? What was the plan? Benefits? What were the main qualities Moses was to look for in his helpers?
2. Finish this sentence: “Trusting others is hard because . . .?”

3. Share about a time when circumstances forced you to depend on others. How did you feel?
How did it change you?

4. Discuss how we might find the right balance between our leadership responsibilities and delegating some responsibilities to others?

5. How do you see these principles applied in **LIFE** Groups?

Wrap up:

- Choosing one or the other, would you be more inclined to ask God to be more “trustworthy” or more “trusting”?

Prayer:

LIFE Groups

Providing an environment to nurture caring relationships and spiritual growth.

- L** ♦ Learn..... applying Biblical truth for everyday living
- I** ♦ Invite.....welcoming others to our fellowship
- F** ♦ Fellowship.....nurturing Christ centered caring relationships
- E** ♦ Evangelism..... combining evangelism, teaching and nurturing to impact our world for Christ

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Show Genuine Care

How can I help build a caring community?

Ice Breaker: What comes to your mind when we mention “community”?

Practice Hospitality (read 1 Peter 4:9-10; 3 John 8; Romans 12:13)

[First century Christians were experiencing the beginning of persecution. Peter encourages them to extend hospitality to Christians who were traveling. The Greek term for “hospitality” denotes “to show affection, love” as you would a friend or relative to the “foreigner, alien or stranger.”]

4. Is hospitality as essential today as it was in Peter’s time? Why or why not?

5. What are some modern expressions of hospitality? Describe someone who has demonstrated “hospitality . . . what attitude/activity characterized this person?

Cultivate Kindness (read 1 Thessalonians 5:15)

6. What two basic commands do we see in this verse?

7. Discuss what would be a Christ-like perspective on the following statements. A carnal, worldly perspective.
 - Sometimes revenge is necessary
 - Being kind shows weakness . . . a lack of backbone
 - “Random acts of kindness” will do little to change the world
 - It’s impossible to be kind to those who have wronged us

Give Of Yourself To Others (read Philippians 2:1-4; 19-22; 25,29)

1. How do Timothy and Epaphroditus illustrate 2:1-4?

2. Share how others have given of themselves in helping to meet your needs.

3. Share how God used others to demonstrate the principles discussed in this lesson to:
 - A. Lead you to accept Jesus as your Savior (salvation)

 - B. Assist you in your early stages of following Christ

Wrap up:

- Who comes to mind that you could show genuine care to this week?
- Name a non-believer you are praying to see God working in their life (John 6:44)

How can we help one another through prayer today?

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Communicate Openly and Honestly

How can I communicate with others in a way that builds community?

Ice Breaker: What radio/TV personality do you appreciate for his or her uplifting words?

Control Your Speech (read James 3:3-8)

6. Why are the illustrations of a bit, a rudder and a fire spark so fitting when talking of the tongue?

7. If no human being can control the tongue, why bother trying?

Be Consistent In Your Speech (read James 3:9-12)

8. What do these contradictions in speech say about our basic human nature? Our relationship with God?

9. Discuss how these inconsistencies can be harmful to the community of the church?

Avoid Destructive Speech (read Colossians 3:8-10)

1. What does it mean to “put on the new self”? (see Colossians 2:6-7, 10) How is this like a “continuing education program”? A change of wardrobe?

Speak Positive Words (read 1 Peter 3:8-10)

1. How should we live if we want to “love life and see good days” (v.10)?
2. Of the five directives given in verses 8 & 9, which do you think is the most difficult to do? Why?

Wrap up:

- Make an effort to evaluate your speech this week

Prayer:

Speech and relationships go together. Is there a relationship that you would like prayer in regard to your speech?

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Invest Yourself in Others

Christians build community as they invest their time and effort
in helping others develop to their fullest potential.

Ice Breaker: Who do people say you look like? Why?

The Call & Privilege of Personal Involvement (read Acts 9:10-17)

8. What do we know about Saul to this point?

9. Given his previous activities, what might Saul be thinking about during those three days of blindness and fasting (v.9)?

10. How would you feel in Ananias' place?

11. Discuss what principles these verses provide for us.

The Potential Impact of Personal Involvement (read Acts 9:18-28)

10. What fears might the leaders in Jerusalem have had?

11. Discuss the impact of Barnabas' initiative to stand by Saul.

12. Why do adults sometimes find it difficult to form new relationships?

13. How are mature Christians important in the lives of new Christians? What are the effects of helping new Christians both for the individuals involved and for the larger church community?

14. Who has played the role of a Barnabas in your life?

15. How can we help newcomers to **LIFE Groups** (our church) feel accepted?

Wrap up:

- How does this lesson apply to you personally? To ministry among your small group? To your influence in helping a non-believer come to follow Christ?

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