

40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY GROWING TOGETHER THROUGH CONVERSATION

Memory Verse: Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ. (Ephesians 4:15 NLT)

I. _____ is a natural process of life. The question is, will you grow up, or just grow old? Will you grow to maturity?

II. We grow through our _____ - with God, with ourselves, and with others.

III. God is calling us to not only connect through conversation, but to honor Him in the way we speak to each other. Ephesians 4:15 explains the importance of speaking the truth in love.

- A. HOW we speak will impact HOW we grow.
- B. There are not different rules for speech as a Christian. We are always under oath.
- C. We speak the truth in love when we –
 - 1. Check your heart. What is your motive for sharing? It should always be for the benefit of the other person or the relationship.
 - 2. Make sure you know the truth.
 - 3. Consider how to package your words (love).
 - 4. Speak about the issue at hand, and don't "dump" on others.
 - 5. Be willing to receive the same from trusted others.
 - 6. Put Jesus at the Center.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Can you think of a humorous example of you or someone else, sticking their "foot in their mouth?"
2. Are you quick to resolve conflict or offense with others? If not, what causes you to delay?
3. Have you experienced healing through sharing your struggles with others? If so, would you be willing to share an example?
4. How would you speak to someone with truth and love about the following scenarios –
 - a. Your teenage son just told you he can't stand being around you, and to leave him alone.
 - b. Your spouse forgot your anniversary for the 2nd time in 3 years.
 - c. Your boss scolded you unjustly in front of your co-workers.
 - d. A close friend shared a confidential secret that you had shared, with someone you would have never told.
 - e. Your adult son / daughter has walked away from the Lord. They still love you, but want nothing to do with God.

Answers: I. Growing II. Conversations