

GROWTH GROUP BRIEFING NOTES

Date:

9th July 2017

Title:

Describing the Family: Our Relationship to One Another, Part II.

Passage:

Romans 12:9-3

Speaker:

Joe Ogborn

Welcome to this week's GG Briefing Notes! Thanks for leading this discussion in your group. Do pray that God uses it to help everyone in your group become more like Jesus.

We have suggested below some things to aim for in your discussion. Please don't just read this sheet out to the group! Decide before you start how you'll work towards each aim. Which of our questions will you use (you may not need all of them) – or can you think of better ones? What kind of answers will you be hoping to get from each question?

As you ask questions, keep the aim in mind, and only give hints if you have to. Don't forget to make sure everyone in the group is involved.

1

Aim

Paul writes 'Let love be genuine.' Our attitudes (heart) and actions (hands) need to align for our love to be genuine and without hypocrisy.

Some Possible Questions

Read Romans 12:9-13.

What are some of the attitudes Paul lists in this passage? What are the some of the actions? How are our heart attitudes and our actions related?

Why is it so important that our love is genuine?

In what way is our love for one another missional?

In what ways can it be difficult to love others? How can the Gospel help us overcome these difficulties?

Read James 2:1-4, James 2:14-17 and James 3:9-12.

What examples of non-genuine love do these verses describe?

2

Aim

To understand that the Christian life is lived in response to God's mercy. We love others because He first loved us.

Some Possible Questions

Read Matthew 18:21-35: The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant.

What enabled the servant to withhold mercy even after having his HUGE debt cancelled?

In what ways are we the same as the servant in this story?

How does understanding the mercy of God help us love each other?

How can we better grasp His mercy?

One application from Sunday that we can all take hold of is to commit to pray for one another. We pray for what we care for, and we end up caring for what we pray for. Praying for another is likely to change our attitudes and make our actions easier. Spend a few minutes in silence until someone comes to mind who you can commit to praying for every day this week. Write down their name and carry it around with you to help you to remember!

Hints

a. He did not understand how huge the debt was that he had been forgiven.

b. He felt entitled.

c. He forgot.

He was no longer living in light of the mercy he had received. We can be like this when it comes to salvation. Perhaps we don't know the magnitude of God's mercy and his forgiveness. Perhaps we don't really think we are all that bad and God's mercy isn't that great -we probably could have paid off our debt. Perhaps we simply forget - it's so easy.