

THE DIFFICULT PEOPLE

Lifegroups | Week 6 | FALL 2018

ICEBREAKER

Let's play, "Whodunit!" Have everyone in the group write down one interesting thing they have done without names and throw it in a hat. Then pick one paper and start guessing who did it!

OPEN IN PRAYER AND PLAY VIDEO

MESSAGE SUMMARY

You will know people by their fruit. But sometimes we are focused on the gift that we bypass someone's character because we are so in need of relationship. If we allow people to stay in our lives because of their gifts then they will break our hearts. Focus on the fruits of others to qualify them to be in your life.

SCRIPTURE *(do not read until prompted in the discussion questions)*

Matthew 7:16-20 | James 5:16

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When we think of difficult people we usually think of someone else. We rarely look within ourselves if we are the difficult one. Before we put our focus on others let's look at what is in our own hearts first. ***Be honest, can you think of a situation where you have been difficult? Did it change the way you handle things? (ex. Giving a difficult order without showing grace to the server)***
- Read Matthew 7:16-20. The fruit that people grow is important because it is the result of intimacy. If you want to know if people have a true relationship with Christ they will bear the fruit of the Spirit. If you want to have Christian relationships and friendships then you need people around you who are Christ followers and bear HIS fruit. ***What are your standards of a friend? What are your non-negotiables in a relationship? (ex. In a friendship, they are there when I need them. In a relationship, they have to serve at church)***

- A constituent and comrade is someone that is in your life temporarily. These are people that come in agreement with you for a common purpose and once that purpose is over they leave. You don't tell your deepest darkest secrets to them because they are there for a season. We get so desperate for intimacy and friendship we allow temporary people to take a permanent place and get heartbroken. *Have you been so desperate for a friendship or relationship that you allowed someone access to your life that didn't belong? How did you realize they needed to exit your life? (ex. A bad breakup or big fight that you tried to restore but they didn't)*

- James 5:16 says, "*Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*" Constituents and Comrades are temporary but Confidants are permanent. We all need confidants in our lives that we can lean on and vent to. These people are in your life for the long haul and they know your past and present and still believe God can use you. *Do you have a confidant in your life that you can lean on for ANYTHING? Have you told them how much they mean to you?*

CONCLUSION

Not everyone is qualified to be in your life because not everyone wants the best for you. You will find those who should have access to your life by the fruits of the spirit that they live by and not only talk about. And when you find those people keep them close because they will help you in your future.

OUR CHALLENGE

This week take account of who is around you. Do they display the fruits of the Spirit in their everyday lives or are they pulling you down? Keep the confidants close to you and let them know they are your close friends and that you care for them.

GROUP REMINDERS

- Power Encounter – November 10th register at myredemption.cc
- Start serving! There are so many different areas to serve, sign up today!