

DISCUSSION GUIDE

TRUTH IN LOVE

JEFF MARTIN

2 CORINTHIANS 2:5-17
MATTHEW 18 & EPHESIANS 4

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes tough love is more tough than loving. It can be more harmful than helpful. We as Christians are called to speak the truth in love. The ultimate goal is to help the person we are loving to get closer to Jesus. Today we are looking at an example of what it looks like to speak the truth in love.

Corinth is a church with some significant issues. Paul is working on helping them see these flaws and work on them together. He focuses on the value of church discipline if it follows a heart that truly loves the individual and wants to see them restored.

ICE BREAKER

Is there a certain discipline you remember receiving as a child? Did you find it beneficial?

DISCUSSION KNOWING GOD

1. Read the passage aloud together as a group. You may also want to compare different versions (ESV, NLT, MSG, etc).
2. Is there any historical context you know about Paul writing to the Church in Corinth?
3. Church Discipline. Where are the foundations of church discipline found? (Matthew 18)
4. Why is membership in the church so important?
5. What is the purpose of addressing sin?
6. How does unforgiveness affect both the sinner and the one who was hurt?

APPLICATION BECOMING LIKE JESUS

1. Gospel Fluency: How does this passage call us to look to and rely on Jesus?
2. What is Jesus' gospel message and how is it similar to the goal of church discipline?
3. Are you a member/partner in the church? If not, is there a reason why you may be delaying?
4. Is there someone that you need to forgive—and let them know that you have forgiven them?
5. How can we *earn* the right to be heard? Jeff closed with this thought. Dwell on this. The best person to address sin is the one who the sinner *knows* loves them.

MISSION HELPING OTHERS DO THE SAME

1. Is there someone you know who is on the fence about being a part of a church body? Take the time to learn why that may be so.
2. Think about the people you're discipling. Is there sin that needs to be brought to light? Follow the steps Jesus laid out for us when speaking truth in love.

PRAY

Take time to pray in response to the ways that God has been speaking through the passage and sermon. Thank the Lord for redeeming you.