

40 Days of Community Listening Guide for Week 4

Theme - Growing Together

Preparation for Week 4

1. Have you had a chance to invite a friend to church or to your small group yet? How did they respond?
2. Check the progress of your group outreach project.
3. Who have been some of the greatest examples of Christian love for you?

1. Growing together requires _____.

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*,

Ephesians 4:2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

2. Growing together requires _____.

1 Corinthians 13:6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;

Ephesians 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

Speaking the Truth in Love

- Check your _____.

Matthew 7:3-5 "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? ⁵ "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

- Plan your _____.
- Plan _____ you'll say it.

Proverbs 25:11 *Like* apples of gold in settings of silver Is a word spoken in right circumstances.

- Plan _____ you'll say.

Proverbs 25:12 *Like* an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise reprover to a listening ear.

- Plan _____ you'll say it.

Proverbs 12:18 There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.

- _____.
- Say it _____.

Proverbs 16:21 The wise in heart will be called understanding, And sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.

- Say it _____.
- Say it _____.

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

Proverbs 24:26 He kisses the lips Who gives a right answer.

Proverbs 15:23 A man has joy in an apt answer, And how delightful is a timely word!

3. Growing together requires _____

1 Corinthians 13:5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*,

Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Matthew 7:2 "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

Personal Reflection and Application

1. This lesson covered three aspects of love that can sometimes be very difficult: patience, truthfulness, and forgiveness. Which part of the lesson was most meaningful to you? Why?
2. Where does impatience show up in your life?
3. What is the difference between judging people and confronting them in love.
4. How do you respond when someone hurts you? Why is it so hard to forgive people who hurt us? What are the consequences of choosing not to forgive?

Group Discussion

1. In what ways do patience, truthfulness and forgiveness impact your ability to serve in ministry?
2. Is there someone in your church or small group with whom you need to seek reconciliation? Why wait any longer? Reach out to that person this week with truthfulness and forgiveness. We will pray together about these relationships during the Worship Together section of this study.
3. How can unforgiveness or resentment in your relationship with someone who is not a follower of Christ affect their openness to Jesus Christ? What difference could a healed relationship make in that person's life?
4. How do unity and love in your church affect your church's testimony to your community?