

## **WEEK TWO – COMMUNITY & ACCOUNTABILITY**

### GROWING IN THE HABITS OF A DISCIPLE

*“And [Jesus] answered them, ‘Who are my mother and my brothers?’ And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.’”* –

Mark 3:33–35 (ESV)

#### **GATEWAY VALUE – Community & Christian Accountability**

We believe that real ministry happens in the context of groups and it is our hope and prayer that one day all of our members would be involved in a Life Group or another small group devoted to meaningful relationships centered on God’s Word and prayer. It is impossible to live out the roughly 60+ ‘one another’s’ of scripture simply through attending a weekend service, so we use groups as a way to do just that. We believe that if you connect people to A) The Bible, and B) Fellow Christians, they will grow!

#### **DISCIPLESHIP HABIT – Develop the Habit of Community & Christian Accountability**

Choose one friend to be accountable to and establish a rhythm of accountability with them. By committing to Christian accountability, you are committing to the following expectations:

- Identify an accountability partner (or two) in your life.
- A regular or weekly conversation (voice-to-voice) with your accountability partner.
- Initiate conversation by (1) declaring truths from God’s Word and (2) asking questions that show how much you care.
- Choose a regular list of three to four questions, such as:
  1. How are you spending time with Jesus and what is he teaching you?
  2. Where have you been tempted to sin? What sins do you need to confess?
  3. How can I pray for you?
- Be honest at all times. [It’s always better to say “I don’t want to answer that question” than to lie.]

**DIG DEEPER RESOURCES** – This week, review the following resources:

- **Watch**
  - These excellent teachings explain some of the nuances men and women face in friendship and accountability.
    - [For men](#)
    - [For women](#)
  - Past Gateway Messages – [“When a Crowd Becomes the Church”](#), [“Private Lust”](#), & [“Life’s Better in Groups.”](#)
- **Read**
  - [Relationships: A Mess Worth Making](#). This is one of the best books on building deep, healthy, Christian friendships. If you’re short on time, these articles are great summaries:
    - [Who Knows You?](#)
    - [Growing a Healthy Friendship](#)
- **Do**
  - Start an accountability group [[Practical Guide to Accountability](#)]
  - [Join a Gateway Life Group](#)