

STRAIGHT TALK

biblical communication

ACCOUNTABILITY!



Week 4
10/29/23



WELCOME

Welcome to the Fall 2023 Life Group Series! For the next four weeks, we will be learning about Biblical communication principles.

Why are we learning how to communicate? Haven't we been communicating for as long as we can remember? Yes! But things have changed. Technology has had a huge impact on how we communicate with one another. Twenty years ago, we had an easier time getting along with friends, family, and coworkers because most of our communication was verbal. We talked in person or called people on the phone.

When we disagreed with someone in conversation before smartphones, we tried to do it gently. Saying something nasty to someone in person might get you punched in the face. Say it on Facebook, or over a text, and you'll just get unfriended or blocked. COVID, the culture war, and smartphones have drastically altered how we communicate - even with our own family and loved ones. A lot has changed, but the principles of Biblical communication have not changed. They are...

1. Listen before speaking.
2. Be open to correction.
3. Tell the truth.
4. Hold one another accountable.
5. Handle conflict in a way that leads to peace.
6. Use speech that edifies.
7. Forgive one another.

We hope you enjoy this time COMMUNICATING with your Life Group as we teach one another how to honor God and one another in our speech.



THINGS TO DO BEFORE LIFE GROUP

- If you're bringing a new person to the study, we recommend getting them study materials ahead of time so they can feel prepared.
- Pray that the LORD will open your eyes and heart to receive the lessons he has to teach you in the study.
- Read the scripture focus for the study.
- Go through the questions and think about how you might answer them. We've provided space in the study for you to write down your answers if you'd like.





INTRO

Have you ever had a job review? If you have, then you know it can be a wonderful time hearing that you've done a great job, the company has thrived because of your work, and you're going to get a huge pay increase.

Or, they can be tough. Tough because during the review, you get negative feedback. Your boss tells you that you haven't been doing a great job. The company has lost money because of you, and instead of getting a pay increase, you get corrective action steps that you must follow to keep your job.

As tough as that feedback might be to hear, your boss has to give it if she expects the business to continue employing you and your coworkers. A company that doesn't make money due to poor work will go out of business. Accountability isn't always fun, but it's always necessary.

In our text, the LORD holds David accountable for falling down on the job as King and one of God's chosen.

HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT

The events of our text take place during King David's reign of Israel. 2 Samuel 11 tells the story of how King David seduced a woman named Bathsheba, who was married to Uriah the Hittite, one of David's most devout and committed soldiers. Bathsheba conceived David's child. This was a problem for David. To cover up his sin, David plotted to kill Uriah as he served his King in battle.

COMMUNICATION TIPS

Many Christians who are in recovery make use of accountability partners. These are partners who meet regularly to hold each other accountable for goals they've set for themselves. The goals generally center around their faith walk, but accountability can be helpful in our family and work life as well. Here are four benefits of having an accountability partner because all Christians are in recovery from sin.

1. They keep you on track and focused on your goals. Meeting regularly will force you to evaluate your progress constantly.
2. They help you grow in your faith. They pray for our success and encourage our walk with the Lord.
3. They can be our confessors when we fall into sin. Sharing our guilt with others helps us shed any guilt and shame we're carrying, freeing us to follow God's law out of love.
4. They help us discern God's will for our lives by affirming our gifts. Accountability partners may see more potential in our gifts than we can imagine.

LET'S

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ABOUT IT

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What We Believe

1. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-14. Retell the story Nathan told King David in your own words.
2. Why did David get angry at the rich man in Nathan's story? Why did Nathan tell David, "You are the man!" in verse 7?
3. What standard did Nathan use to show David that he fell short of expectations?
4. What consequences did David face for his sin? If the LORD forgave David, why did he still face consequences for his sin?

God Speaks to Us

1. The LORD sent Nathan to keep King David accountable for his actions. Who has the LORD sent you to keep you accountable to your profession of faith in Jesus Christ?
2. What is the role of the church in keeping us accountable to God's word? Does the church keep you accountable? How?

God Speaks to Our Family

1. Most children get grades in school to keep them accountable for their studies by showing their parents where they might need more work. Who/what grades you as a parent/grandparent/mentor or family member? What grade would you give yourself when it comes to your responsibility to your own children or the children in the church?
2. When we discipline children, we do so because they've failed to meet an expectation. It's not fair to children to hold them accountable to unclear expectations. How do you ensure that children understand your expectations clearly?

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God Speaks in Our Worship

1. What goals should Christians have when it comes to our spiritual lives? How does weekly worship keep us accountable to those goals?
2. Discuss how the following elements of worship provide the church with accountability...
 - a. Lord's Supper
 - b. Confession and Assurance
 - c. Offering

The Gospel Call

1. God's moral law tells us God's expectations for humanity to live in holiness and righteousness. What role should God's law play in our presentation of the gospel to others?
2. What expectations does the LORD have for Christians to share the gospel with our neighbors? Are we meeting those expectations? How do you know if we're meeting the LORD's expectations?

