

March 1, 2019

“Growing UP into Relational Oneness”
Ephesians 4:13-16

Ice Breaker:

Have you ever been scammed? Pranked? Tricked? What happened?

Were you tall or short for your age in 9th grade? What effect did that have on you?

Read: Ephesians 4:13-16

1. What insight, principle or observation did you find to be most fresh, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.
2. What are some characteristics of children?
3. What are signs of spiritual immaturity? Maturity?
4. When it comes to a truth that needs exposure, do you tend to avoid speaking it for the sake of keeping peace, or do you tend to bluntly get it out going light on the love part? What will bring you back to a balance of truth and love?
5. Give an example when someone spoke a hard truth to you and it was clearly done in love.
6. Give an example of how your spouse has been used by God to refine your character. (Read Proverbs 27:6)
7. What does it take to receive hard truth well? V.1-3
8. What advice would you give a friend that is heading into a “crucial conversation” where they need to speak a hard truth? Receive the truth?

Pray for each other:

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Most of us don't like to have those hard conversations where we know truth needs to be said, because we don't want people angry with us. We don't want to rock the boat and make relational waves. We are feeling “gun-shy” because it hasn't gone well in the past. Growth and unity are stuck in neutral until this truth gets out on the table. . . but how do we approach it? What will motivate us to do this hard thing?

How can we grow into maturity and relational oneness?

1. Teach (and receive) God's truth.
2. Growth is a process.
3. We need each other.
4. Speak the truth in love.

Next Step:

Challenge!! Ask your friend/spouse/parent/child who knows you well, “Since God has placed you in my life, as a tool of refinement, would you pray for the next three days and ask God if there is something hard He would like you to share with me.” (During those three days, you pray that God would prepare your heart to receive any hard, but loving gift of truth.)