

Come Out of Hiding

Small Group Discussion Guide—8/5/2018

This week we talked about our tendency to “hide” our true selves. This is the sentiment behind the Casting Crowns song Stained Glass Masquerade. Listen to the song here:

<https://youtu.be/yGsUe2lrqas> . Can you relate to the song? If so, how?

Living life in true Christian community can help us to close the curtain on the stained glass masquerade. Let’s turn to God’s Word to see some of the benefits He designs community for:

1. Encouragement: Galatians 6:2
2. Healing: James 5:16
3. Attracting the Holy Spirit: Acts 2:46-47
4. Love: Colossians 3:13-14

What are other benefits of being in community?

There is a difference in living in community and being in community. Being in community means humbly allowing others to see the real you – the you behind the stained glass masquerade.

Why do we find it so hard to share our true selves?

When Adam and Eve were naked in the garden, God provided a covering for them. Today, God has given us the ultimate covering in Jesus. Let’s dive into some of the benefits of this “covering”:

- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Galatians 2:20
- Romans 8:1
- Philippians 3:20

How does knowing your identity in Christ give you confidence to share your true self?

Even if you’ve already had prayer time, take some time now to solicit true, honest prayer requests from your members. Encourage your members to really evaluate their hearts and lives. Use the time to pray to God on behalf of those in your group. This should not be a time where members feel forced to “reveal secrets”, but rather an opportunity to open up as they feel led. If you have a large group, you might consider breaking in to small groups – men and women, or groups of 2-3 couples, for example.

Note to Leaders: If your group struggles to open up, you might find that if you’ll take the first step they will soon follow your example – share first, as you’re comfortable and ready.

Some things to think about:

- What areas are you prone to temptations?
- What are the fears you struggle with?
- What are the things from your past that still cause you shame?
- What doubts do you have, or areas you struggle to believe, about God?

Note: It is imperative that the things said in small group stay at small group, and that people in your group know this is the case. Please make a point to remind everyone of the sanctity of Small Group and the confidentiality that is expected.

Pray for each other in these areas, and for your group to be a place where the curtain is closed on the stained glass masquerade.