



WELCOME TO LIFE GROUP

This Fall, we are focusing on our values of Experiencing God and Loving Others through our sermon series, OVERFLOW.

This week, Bubba took us to Ephesians chapter 4 to help us understand how passionate Jesus followers are to love with our words.

It is part of the whole church's ministry (YOUR ministry) to speak the truth in love to one another, "to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity..." When our motive is love and our message is truth, God's love overflows among us in unity and maturity.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Our discipleship to Jesus is meant to be a holistic way of living, involving our whole selves - **head, heart, and hands**. While each person will likely gravitate to one of these over the others, it's important we all consider how God's love affects our minds, our hearts, and our actions.



What idea from the sermon stuck out to you most this week?



What questions do you have that were either raised or left unanswered by the sermon?



Tell about a time that someone tried to speak the truth in love to you. How did that go? How did you receive it?

In order to speak the truth, we must know the truth of God. That means having a regular practice of experiencing God through his Word.

What is your current practice when it comes to reading Scripture? How has that shifted or grown in the last season of life? Are there any ways you'd like to grow in your practice of engaging Scripture?



Bubba encouraged us that, in order to faithfully love others with our words, we must SPEAK, we must speak TRUTH, and we must speak truth IN LOVE.

What part of this challenges you personally? Are you someone who doesn't feel confident in speaking, hesitant to speak truth, or who tends to speak harshly?

Think of a time when you had to speak truth to someone. What was your goal in that moment - building up the body of Christ (Eph 4v12)? Unity and maturity in Christ (Eph. 4v13)? Something else?



Bubba said, "It's loving to tell the truth. It's unloving to withhold the truth."

Is there a truth that someone around you needs to hear that you've been withholding or waiting to speak? What do you sense that God wants you to say? (As group members share, consider pausing to pray for the Spirit to give them the words to say and the love to say them.)

RESPONSE

Often, “speaking the truth in love” immediately makes us think of having challenging conversations or rebuking people. And that is sometimes needed. But speaking the truth in love for the unity and maturity of the body can also include things like encouragement, prophetic words, reminders of God’s love, and speaking Scriptures that relate to someone’s situation.

Now that we’ve been together in group for (at least) 7 weeks, and have gotten to know each other a little better, **take some time to speak the truth in love to one another! Do the work of ministry to build one another up in Christ by encouraging, exhorting, praying for, challenging, or giving thanks for one another.**

CLOSING PRAYER

As you close in prayer, spend some time thanking God for giving us his truth in his Word, that we could know and be transformed by his truth. Thank God for always giving us his truth in love, so that we have the power to hear and obey what he says. And ask God for boldness to speak the truth in love wherever it is needed around you. If someone shared about a specific situation in which God is inviting them to speak his truth, spend some time praying specifically for them.

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

¹¹ And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head — Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part.