

The Story of Redemption

Session 3: Shaped in Community (Galatians 1:15-20)

In this session, you'll be reminded of the importance of being part of a Christ-centered community.

WELCOME

- Share a high, low or interesting moment from your life this past week.
- React to this statement: "I need others in my life who will accept me and let me grow in Christ from where I am." How important is that to you? Why?

INTRODUCTION

- God wants the relationships in His family to blossom in healthy environments where people feel welcome and where friendship and transparency can ultimately flourish.
- A healthy environment is a place where we can be together and share life together. It is a place where we can be real and share the good and challenging seasons of life.
- Jesus called His twelve disciples to do life together in an environment where they could share and care deeply for one another.
- When we give ourselves to doing life together, it becomes such a powerful place where we are shaped and formed spiritually in God's family.

GROWING IN COMMUNITY

- **Galatians 1:15-20** shows us that Paul was shaped first by God (in Arabia) and then by being in community with others (in Jerusalem).
- What kinds of things usually help you to connect with God authentically (time in nature, worship, silence, Bible study, etc.)?
- How does being in community with others help you connect with God?

- Reflect on this quote from Larry Crabb's book, *Connecting*:

Releasing the power of God through our lives into the hearts and souls of others requires that we both understand and enter into a kind of relating that only the gospel makes possible...This kind of relating depends entirely on deep fellowship with Christ and then spills over on to other people with the power to change their lives, not always on our timetable or in the ways we expect but as the sovereign Spirit moves.

- What resonates with you from this quote?
- What makes this kind of relationship possible?

There's more on page two. Don't worry about getting to every question but make sure the conversation doesn't get off track.



A CLOSER LOOK AT PAUL'S VISIT WITH PETER

- Read Galatians 1:18.
- The purpose of this visit was for them to “get acquainted.” The Greek word “historesai” is the English word “history.”
- Paul and Peter spent 15 days sharing history, or maybe better stated, “His-story.”
- Imagine stories that Peter and Paul must have shared. Share some examples of some of the things they may have talked about.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What resonates with you about the time Peter and Paul spent together? What can we learn from their example?
- What types of questions might you have for the people in this group?
- Read Ephesians 4:16. How do these words from Paul encourage each of us about our role in the family? What is your responsibility in helping others grow in this group?
- How has your relationship with Jesus shaped you to help create a safe environment for others to be welcomed and fully known?

CONCLUSION

Spend some time in prayer as you wrap up this meeting and confirm details for your next group meeting.

Also, begin talking about what's next for your group once you finish this study. Many groups do the **Discussion Questions** that go along with the sermon each week or pick another study from **Right Now Media** or **Study Gateway**. You can find more details at www.thehills.org/leader-resources.

Reminder: Don't forget to take attendance using the Lead App or directly through The Hills Connect.

