

PRACTICING ACCOUNTABILITY

It can be hard to hold people accountable. We don't want to "call people out" or "challenge them too much" out of fear of damaging the relationship. Not to mention, we don't typically react well when someone confronts us. We shouldn't be paralyzed by what people will think of us if we confront them, nor should we be so defensive when people confront us.

We are called to speak the truth in love and in a way that shows people we care for them. The truth is, we all need accountability in our lives. We all need people who love us and are willing to point out areas of sin that we are too blind to see. We need people we trust to challenge and encourage us as we pursue Christ together.

Here are some ways to practice accountability in your Life Groups:

1. Lead by Example

Lead by example in honesty, vulnerability, and confession. It will set the tone for your group. Your people will not go where you do not lead them.

2. Ask Questions

In your group, take some "group time" to split up into gender specific groups once or twice a month to practice accountability. Ask questions to foster accountability, such as:

- a. Have you spent time fostering your relationship with God this week? If so, what did you do?
- b. Is there anyone whom you fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold resentment toward or disregard? If so, what are you going to do about it?
- c. What sins in word, thought, or deed did you commit this week? **Answering the above questions at times can be very condemning. Make sure when people confess that you remind them of the truth of the gospel. Make sure you **remind them that they are a child of God and they are forgiven.** (1 John 1:8 – 9 & 1 John 2:1)*

3. Partner Up

Encourage people pair up to be accountability partners that can meet regularly outside "group time". Allow them to pick their same gender partner.