

GROUPS

Week of 2-7-21

The following group discussion topics are from the first message in the series: "It's Complicated" at Stockbridge Community Church and was presented by Pastor Jeff Daws.

LEADERS: It's a great idea to read out the overview below to set the stage for the next few weeks of group discussions.

OVERVIEW: Let's be honest, we are all at different places with our relationships. Some are married (long or short term), some may be divorced (newly or long term) and some of us may be single. The idea is to learn through this semester from one another's experiences. And remember, it's always better to be real than to pretend that we are always right.

ICEBREAKER (If your group needs it) Welcome to our first group session of Spring 2021. Let's spend a few moments getting to know one another. Let's go around and share three things about yourself to help us all get to know a little something about our fellow group members.

ICEBREAKER #2 (If your group needs it) Since we are kicking off Spring together this year, what are some of the things you are really looking forward to this year?

#1 Today we talk about the lies that the devil uses to convince people to go against the Word of God. The first is that "God's Word isn't completely true." You can find this all the way back in the Garden of Eden when the serpent (the devil) convinced Eve that God didn't really mean what he said, when he told her and Adam to not eat from the tree of knowledge. **When it comes to relationships, what are some of the lies the devil has sold our world as truth? What are some of the things that we've been convinced (as a culture/society) that God didn't really mean?**

#2 The lie that usually follows the first, is that "sinful choices won't hurt anything." Let's read our key verse and then come back and answer the follow-up.

KEY VERSE:

"There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death." Proverbs 14:12

FOLLOW UP: This passage speaks about all aspects of death; spiritual, physical, and spiritual. But it clearly lays out that living "our way" instead of "God's way" will have consequences. **What are some examples of the consequences of relationships apart from the will of God?**

#3 Our next lie is that "sin is the only way to have fun." We're taught by our culture that God's way is boring - that things like waiting for marriage just take too long. There are books on spicing up your love life that even include suggestions that you invite others to join in what God intended for one man, and one woman who are married. These things may be culturally acceptable, but they are the opposite of the truth that is found in God's Word. **If anyone is willing to be open and share - what were you taught about sex? Were you taught that you should wait until marriage, or that whatever you wanted to do was okay?**

#4 We've also heard that "if something feels good, you should do it." We hear constantly that "I love him" or "I love her" and "God would want me to be happy, and this is what is making me happy." But take something as primitive as fire for example. When fire is safely managed it can bring warmth, good food, and even security. When managed poorly it can bring about total destruction. Just think about the emotional strain and things that come from something like a one night stand. You cannot live by your feelings. **No names, but do you know anyone who lived/lives completely by their feelings? What troubles did or could that bring about for them?**

#5 The final lie is that we should be ashamed of what we have done, and run/hide from God. Listen, this isn't about the past - that is all behind you today. The forgiveness of God can start anyone fresh with a clean slate. Most people, after discussions like the one we have had today will respond to this in one of three ways: defensively, remorsefully, or by repenting and turning from their sins. **Think of someone you know that needs to hear God's truth about what they are doing, or how they are living. Which of the three ways would they respond, and why do you think so?**

Closing Prayer/Requests (Week one's closing prayer should be done by a group leader. After this week, feel free to ask the group "Would anyone like to close us in prayer?")

Announcements/Next Steps: Growth Track is the first step toward making an impact with your life at SCC. You can sign up through your group leader today! Baptism is happening on 2/28 and if you are ready to take your next step, you can sign up with your leader for that today as well.