

VALIDATE!

FACILITATORS GUIDE

Meeting # 12: *Chapter 11 – Repentance*

AGENDA: (Suggested times)

10 min. *Arrive early.*

10 min. *Engage each participant as they arrive.*

5 min. *Settle into group, PRAY*

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE TONIGHT:

Repentance seems to be vanishing from both the vocabulary and the experience of many Christians. It has been a long time since I have heard of someone actually repenting, in private or public. Why is that? What is occurring in our demonstration of “following” Christ that we shy away from the truth that we need to repent daily? Is it possible that we are good at hiding our weaknesses and foibles? Are we becoming “pretenders”?

Think about how minimizing sin by labeling it a mistake, an accident, or just the way I am, can lead to a lack of repentance. If we don’t sin, but merely make mistakes in judgment, then who needs to repent?

How are you pursuing vulnerability in authentic fellowship? Can you share with others the real struggles you have with sin? With temptation? A challenge to move toward honesty and integrity in our devotion to Christ is a good practice to add to any group. Remember, the group will only go as deep as it is led. People being “real” is a prime place for others in the group to invalidate. As a leader, it is your job to interrupt invalidation gently and to pursue engaging anyone who is desiring to be honest with the struggles in their life, their home, or their faith.

20 min. *Conversation Starter –*

Watch: Everyone Loves Raymond - Arguing over fat

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLRfbhKIMmM&list=PLS2emyQ5EQ36Ns3GwMAmwXQ-3UojUDJOF>

How is negative thinking influencing this couple? What decisions have they made about each other? What do they believe is true?

Read: If you want a stimulating read about how we pre-judge others, try this book. It will change the way you look at people in a holy way. *Leadership and Self-Deception*, by The Arbinger Institute

Discuss overall content:

- What impacted you the most from Steps 1-4 (W-I-S-D)?

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- Scripture – Pick one passage that personally spoke to you and emphasize it each week. Relate it to life and the study.
- Book Chapter 11?
- Any insights from Step 4 (your response)?

55 min. *Group Study:* Discuss Step 5 (O).
Read the questions and encourage participation by everyone.

10 min. *Have the group complete Step 6 (M).*

5 min. Take time to pray for the individuals and couples in your group.

20 min. We are done, but please stick around for a few minutes if you can and get to know someone better.

Record any significant comments, questions, prayer requests, follow-up here:

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