



our h^ouse.

WEEK 1 - FRONT DOOR

SERIES BIG IDEA

God's wisdom, understanding, and knowledge can help us build rare and beautiful relationships.

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Wise boundaries build life-giving relationships.

SCRIPTURE

Scripture: Proverbs 24:3-4, Proverbs 4:23, 1 Peter 4:10, Ephesians 4:15, Galatians 5:1, Galatians 6:2-5, Matthew 18:15-20

ICE BREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

These questions are to get the group talking about boundaries and the protection they provide. Get the group thinking about physical boundaries like the front door or even a fence with functional gates. As the discussion progresses, the group should realize we need emotional boundaries and surround ourselves with life-giving people. While God wants us to help others, He doesn't want us to help at the expense of our emotional well being. When we have healthy boundaries, we will know when to say yes to others and when to say no.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

If you recall this week's message, this verse does not contradict itself. Load and burden have two different meanings; load is the usual amount someone is expected to carry, and burden is an amount greater than the usual load. When we see others facing something above their usual load we should come along and help. When we help another person too much, that person may become dependent on that help. If we rescue someone from carrying their own load, it may prevent them from learning to take responsibility for their own lives. Not only does this prevent personal growth from the person being rescued, but it creates a burden in the life of the rescuer.

LIFE APPLICATION

When we love someone who is hurting and struggling the natural thing to do can be to swoop in to rescue that person rather than just providing assistance. When we rescue, we prohibit that person from learning, and they will likely need to be rescued again. If the answer to the question "Is this something they should be doing for themselves?" is yes, then you are probably guilty of rescuing someone.

Remind the group, life-giving relationships are based on grace and truth, and life-stealing relationships are based on control. A life-stealing person will let you become co-dependent to avoid taking responsibility for their life. This type of person tramples on grace. A life-stealing person can be controlling; either by anger or by guilt. This type of person prohibits those closest to them from experiencing the freedom God designed.

CHALLENGE

Depending on the closeness and openness in your group you may want to ask what life-stealing or life-giving qualities they see in themselves. Ask what they are doing to make changes, and most importantly pray for one another for God to reveal behaviors that need to change and boundaries that need to be established. Ask God for wisdom and discernment.