

## 1. Get Acquainted: Icebreaker

- Open or Closed Cultures or Environments – It makes a difference!
  - Home: was your home growing up open or closed?
    - What were open topics? What were closed? Who decided?
  - Work: Is your workplace open or closed?
    - If closed what could be done to create a more open culture?
  - Parenting:
    - Were your parents open about their sin and failure?
      - If they were what was the advantage?
      - If they were not how did that affect you?
- Examples: TimO stories
  - Creating A Culture of Honesty at WORK!
    - I was working for my brother Rick building homes for him and the Friday of my first pay check he asked me to come into his office and he held on to one side of the check and had me hold on to the other side of check while he announced, “I pay you to tell me the “bad news”. The good news will never hurt us but hidden bad news will ruin us.” I never forgot that. I never withheld bad news and never feared his response. He was always gracious, positive and eager to help me find a solution. I still share that story with our new employees at Trinity to create a culture of trust and honesty.
  - Creating a Culture of Hiding in an offer of openness
    - Every coach I ever played for declared 2 things:
      - I am only in it for the kids.
      - If you have a problem with anyone or anything, come see me, MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN!
    - Those may have been true but I never, ever believed them because of how they treated us when we were together. They cursed, belittled, yelled, always yelled, mocked, criticized and most were just plain mean. So even though their door may have been open, NO ONE EVER WENT IN THERE! And the funny thing was they never seemed to notice.

## 2. Worship: Confession - Gives Glory and Praise to God

This is a trick, but it should create helpful discussion.

- Ask your CG what comes to mind when they are asked to –
  - Give glory to God.
  - Then ask what comes to mind when they are asked to Give Praise to him.

Now read Joshua 7:19-21 Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the LORD God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me.” 20 And Achan answered Joshua, “Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did: 21 when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”

- How did Achan give Glory and give Praise to God? How are his answers different than what the group had answered?
- How would your relationship to God been different if you knew that confession, specific confession of sin, brought glory and praise to God?
- Love rejoices in the truth. God rejoices in the truth. What kind of culture would exist in your work, home and friendships if you rejoiced, had a party, when sins were confessed?
- So now give glory and praise to God by specifically confessing what you have done in your sin.
- Did that feel glorious or praise worthy? How come?

### 3. Kingdom Centered Prayer: Making 1 Corinthians 13 Personal

David gave us a great, great example of how to open up about our brokenness and honest about Jesus’ beauty and wonder by explaining sin as the opposite of love so he encouraged to take the list of love described in 1 Cor. 13 and understand sin to be its opposite. Here is an example:

Love is patient	Sin is Impatient
Love is kind	Sin is unkind
Love does not envy	Sin envies
Love does not boast	Sin boasts
Love is not arrogant	Sin is arrogant
Love is not rude	Sin is Rude
Love does not insist on its own way	Sin insists on its own way
Love is not irritable	Sin is irritable
Love does not resent	Sin is resentful
Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing	Sin rejoices at wrongdoing
Love rejoices at the truth	Sin is ashamed at truth
Love bears all things	Sin bears nothing
Love believes all things	Sin disbelieves
Love hopes all things	Sin does not hope
Love endures all things	Sin cannot endure
Love never ends	Sin quits

Now lets personalize it as a prayer of openness and hope in Jesus by replacing Jesus’ name where love is used and your name where sin is used to help us have hope because Jesus, the infinite with overcome us, the finite to the glory and praise of God. Let each person in the group have a line to personalize it themselves.

Jesus is patient.	<u>Your name</u> is impatient.
Jesus is kind.	<u>Your name</u> is unkind.
Jesus does not envy	_____ envies.

#### 4. Sermon Reflection:

**1 John 1:5-10 (ESV)** 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Designed for Openness – for Healthy, Engaging and Winsome Relationships

- Adam and Eve – What were the marks of their relationship ,both with God and each other, when it was healthy?
  - Walked In the garden in the cool of the day
  - Naked
  - Unashamed
  - Harmonious
  - Peaceful
  - With both God and ourselves
- What were the affects of sin on Adam and Eves relationships with each other and God?
  - Isolation and destruction

Reactions to our sinfulness

- David mentioned 2 reactions to sin from 1 John 1
  - We say we have NO sin. Denying our condition.
    - Example: David’s daughters – what opened them to confess their sin.
    - Example Spurgeon throwing a cup of water on a guest.
    - How do you know yourself to be a sinner? How do others know you to be a sinner?
  - We are dishonest about our sin. We don’t confess our actual sins.
    - Belittle or make less of our sins than they acutally are.
    - Blaming others.
      - Not me, it was my circumstances or my peers.
    - Bury, hide my sins hoping they will go away.
  - Give an example of the way you have done each:
    - Belittle –
      - TimO – I don’t pray but its no big deal.
    - Blame –
      - If my family had been different, I would have been honest.
    - Bury -
      - My gluttony, lack of energy and exercise are not important enough to be transparent and ask friends to hold me accountable for what I eat and how much I exercise.

### Confessing Corporate Sins

- Abortion – pray for forgiveness and ask Holy Spirit to change our priorities so that we would love the unborn
- Racism – Pray for love, honesty and joy in all relationships especially those who are different than us.

### The Gospel: Sins damaging effects, cured in Jesus

- Vs 9 Solved in Jesus in whom we receive forgiveness and cleansing
  - Forgiveness: our wicked deeds forgiven
  - Cleansed: We receive the righteousness of Jesus, His perfect record
- What does it feel like to have all your sins forgiven, every last, first and all sins in between?
- How does it change your doings knowing that you are perfect in Christ?
- How does the Gospel free you to be both transparent and hopeful?

## 5. Mission: Open Life – Open Bible

- An Open life creates fellowship
  - What is a story of David and Goliath in your life?
  - What is a story of David and Bathsheba?
  - Why do stories of our failure and struggles lead to more and greater fellowship with our friends?
  - Why do stories of our success create spiritual distance?
- Openness is Messy
  - Why is openness messy?
  - Why is that so so good for us?
- Openness makes space for others.
  - How can you make space for others in your life?
  - What needs to change for you to have space for others?
  - Who is the best person you know that always has space for others?
    - How do they do that?
- Open Bible
  - Who do you read the Bible with?
  - Who do you need to have a “crucial Christian conversation” with?
  - What new friend is on your heart to invite to church, dbg, CG?