



WEEK ONE SMALL GROUP GUIDE

The Big Idea

Does it seem like the world is getting better or worse? Jesus, who lived at a time and in a culture that may have been even darker than ours, said that one of the most important things about us is who we say He is. You may have been hurt by people - but you've never been hurt by Jesus. This week we spoke about working to heal our past hurts together and how in doing that we can see the local church through the lens of Christ all over again.

Things to Remember

"Hurt in the church is usually unintentional"

"When Church hurt happens don't give up on all people because of some people"

Next Steps

- Forgiveness is everything. This week take some time to truly think on areas of your life you might still be holding onto & harboring hurt. Write out a letter to God about those hurts and ask him to help you forgive those who have hurt you.

Discussion Questions

1. **Discuss** Tell the group about one of your worse experiences when out in a public place. For example, having the worst food service or bad customer service in general.

2. **Read** Matthew 16:18-19

Discuss How does this verse show us Christ's original intent for the Church? How can we embrace Christ's plan for his family, the local church?

3. **Read** Romans 16:17-18

Discuss Without naming anyone, tell the group about a time it was hard for you to get over hurt by someone in Church.

4. **Read** 1 Corinthians 3:3-4

Discuss Have you experienced jealousy in your life? Why do you think jealousy is something we sometimes struggle with so often?

5. **Read** Romans 12:19-21

Discuss The world says to hurt people who hurt us, but God says to forgive them. What does it look like to practically forgive someone who has hurt us?

Key Verses

Matthew 16:18-19, Romans 16:17-18, 1
Corinthians 3:3-4, Romans 12:19-21