

Getting Started

1. When did someone's encouragement have a significant impact on your life? It could be a simple word of affirmation or a larger act of support. How did that experience affect you?

Exploring the Message

2. How do you think it would change your perspective and experience of small groups if you prepared yourself for the meeting by asking the question: "How can I build others up today?"
3. Pastor Keith shared his personal experience of expecting to be torn down during a crucial moment but instead being built up. Have you ever encountered a situation where you expected criticism but received support and understanding?

Engaging with Scripture – Ephesians 4:29

4. Pastor Keith refers to Ephesians 4:29, which emphasizes speaking in a way that builds others up. Can you think of a time when someone's words had a powerful effect on your life? (Positive or negative).
5. How do you think Paul defines "unwholesome talk"? How easy or difficult is his instruction: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth"?
6. What are some helpful ways that we might make sure that we're only saying things for the benefit of those who listen?

Thinking Through CorGroups

7. We talked about three ways to build up the group, the first was: make time for group. Can you think of a time where someone came late, didn't show up, or didn't make time for you? How important is it to "make time for group" and what might it look like for you?
8. The second way you can build up the group is by encouraging each other. Reflect on how Jesus' approach to those who were weary and burdened reflects the principles of building up the church. How can we emulate Jesus' example of providing rest, refreshment, and encouragement to others, especially within the context of our CorGroup?
9. The third way to build up the group is to not dominate it. Is this important to you when it comes to your CorGroup experience? How easy or difficult do you think this will be for you?

Personal Reflection

10. Take Away: What's something that God's teaching you from this study? What stood out to you? What do you need to work on or what next steps do you think God is calling you to?