

Transition: Paul is explaining that once we are saved, we no longer look only on our own needs but consider others especially the Body of Christ. He explains the need to be gentle with someone who is caught in transgression but to be aware and approach with caution so that we do not fall into the same trap.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you find it hard to point out another believer's sin? Why?
2. How should we present the wrongful act to an unbeliever?
3. What is the danger of not saying something?
4. How would you react if someone were to call you out for a sinful pattern in your life?
5. What are some wise steps in taking before addressing someone who is in sin?

Fundamental: When unbelievers sin, we present the Gospel and the love of God the Father. When believer's sin we show them how we grieve the Spirit and we are not "judging them" but "assessing their fruit" especially if it is a continuing lifestyle such as anger, lust, theft, adultery, etc.

Homework/Challenge:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you are pointing the finger at others, when you, yourself, refuse to correct a sin in your own life
2. Ask a friend if there is any area that they see in your life that you are acting as a hypocrite
3. Mock a scenario to give example of how to lovingly restore a brother who is in sin

Discipleship Tip: Remember that you are part of the Family of God (the Body of Christ) and we should care for each member and want the best for them. We are to seek unity, forgiveness and protection for one another.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for your forgiveness for me and my sins. Help me to be as forgiving and merciful as you are. Help me to help my brothers and sisters in Christ in a loving way and not come across as judgmental or harsh. Give me wisdom to speak and the right word in due season, Amen.