



For when people don't care about what you care about

Gather:

Consider incorporating these questions into your check-in time to help your group start thinking about this week's topic.

What could you give a 40 minute presentation on without any preparation?

If you could convince everyone in the world to do one thing at one point in time, what would that thing be?

Reflect:

We may encounter God through his Word, but also through the words of others. Invite the Spirit to help you encounter God as you read the following poem together. Note scriptural themes and movements of the Spirit as you consider this week's topic.

In The Way (Paul David Tripp)*

Care gets in the way of
my worship.
Care gets in the way of
my obedience.
Care gets in the way of
my calling.
Care gets in the way of
acts of sacrifice.
Care gets in the way of
my commitment to love.
Care gets in the way of
thinking what is true.
Care gets in the way of
desiring what is right.
Care gets in the way of
adoring you.
Care gets in the way of
soaking up your truth.
Care gets in the way of
my commitment to peace.
Care gets in the way of
righteous indignation.

Care gets in the way of
your call to be humble.
Care gets in the way of
my service for your kingdom.
It seems like every day,
care gets in the way.
My problem is not that
I care.
My problem is that
I care about me more than
I care about you.
My hope, then, is in reality that
you care.
You care for me more than
I will ever understand.
In your care is
my assurance that
you will rescue me from the
care that gets in the way.

Connect:

Choose one or more of the following scriptures to read together. How is reading these scriptures the same or different from reading the poem? How is God reflected differently or similarly?

Mark 2:1-12

Acts 15:36-39

Respond:

Take time together to think about how you have encountered God in community, the words of others, and in scripture. Consider the following questions or activities to conclude your time together.

What things do you care about that it feels like other people don't care about?

Do you think these 'cares' draw you closer to God or make you pull away? Why?

Do you think God cares about those things too? Why or why not?

In what ways do you see or experience God's Spirit in caring about these things?

Is there a way you can step in and help someone else in your small group feel like you care about their thing too?

Prayer:

Close your time in prayer for each other. Consider asking each person to write down their prayer requests on a 3x5 card and switch them with someone else in the group. Pray for each other throughout the week.

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