Spring 2020 Bible Study

For when you get in a fight with a friend

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

When was the last time you changed your opinion or belief about something major?

What was the best compliment you’ve received?

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.

Hoping for a Broken Heart (Paul David Tripp)*

I am too satisfied with the things I say, the things I do, the attitudes of my heart, the ways I react day after day. I too easily accept quick assessments of my own righteousness in situations where I have been anything but righteous. I am too skilled at mounting plausible arguments structured to make me feel okay about what I think, what I desire, what I say, what I do. I am too defensive when a loved one makes an attempt to call me out and suggests for a moment that what I have decided, said, or done is less than godly. I am too comfortable with the state of things.
between you and me,
too relaxed with the nature of my love for you,
too able to minimize my need for your grace.
In the recesses of my private world, there is so much that is wrong that I am able to convince myself is right.
There are attitudes that should not be kept. There are words that should not be spoken. There are thoughts that do not agree with your view of me and mine. There are desires that take me in a different direction than what you have planned for me. I make decisions based more on what I want that on what you will.
So I am hoping for wise eyes that are able to see through the cloud of self-righteousness and see myself as I actually am. I am praying for wise ears that are able to hear through the background noise of well-used platitudes and hear myself with clarity. And I am longing for a humble spirit that is willing to accept and confess what you reveal as you break through my defenses and show me to me. I am hoping for a broken heart.
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?
Galatians 6:1-6

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.

In what areas of your life do you feel like you’ve got it together? In what areas of your life do you feel like you fall short?

How do you evaluate your spiritual life?

Do you have people in your life who hold you accountable? Who are they, why do they get to do that?

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.

*Taken from My Heart Cries Out by Paul David Tripp, © 2019, pp. 162. Used by permission of Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, IL 60187, www.crossway.org