

FRENEMIES

Part 4

Key Scriptures: James 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13; 1 Corinthians 6:1-2 and 5-6; Matthew 7:1-2

1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Tell the group two strange things that are true about yourself and one thing that isn't true... then challenge the group to identify the one thing that wasn't true!
- Who fooled the most people into identifying the wrong thing as their not true story?

2. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- How could this statement be true? "Trying to be like someone else is the perfect way to live...!" Why?
- What kind of attitudes or reactions do you never see in Jesus' life that are common in our lives?
- Do you think Jesus was ever tempted to react poorly? To have a bad attitude? How do you think He overcame those temptations?
- Why do you think people give in and slander others so easily?
- What is it that makes us think we are better than others? Or that we know better than others? Or that we deserve better than others?

3. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- How has slander and/or gossip affected your life? On a scale of 1 (no worries) to 10 (my life is ruined)
- Is slander or gossip ever helpful? Even if the information is true? Why not (give an example)?
- Do you know anyone who always has a story to always "one-up" the story being told? Give an example...? (Their life is better, or worse, or easier, or harder than yours...) What are they trying to accomplish with their story? Is that self-glorification building up or breaking down relationships?
- We never have the full context in which to judge someone, that is why we are encouraged to talk to others instead of slandering them. How does talking to someone you may disagree with help instead of harm? Does it change the way you act if they are not a Christian?

4. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Pray to always see the value in others, and act accordingly when it comes to disputes.
- Pray to be quick to forgive and quicker to seek forgiveness.

5. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Choose one person who may be tough to maintain a healthy relationship with and encourage or compliment them this week. Regardless of how they may or do take it. Pray that God blesses them... and you'll find yourself more eager to bless them as well.