

February 8 & 9, 2020 | Ground Rules – week 2

Group Discussion Questions

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's weekend service's message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

INTRODUCTION

Relationships have ground rules. If followed, they lead to a healthy, enjoyable, God-honoring relationship. In ground rule #2, we find out that we cannot control other people, but we can take responsibility for our own actions and behaviors. We are human, and we will make mistakes. Taking ownership of our mistakes not only paves the way for forgiveness to take place but also begins the process of ensuring that the offense or pattern of hurt will come to an end. We owe it to ourselves, our significant other, and God to be responsible.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Taking responsibility is much harder than blaming someone else for your relationship issues. What's one way you've recently placed blame on someone else for an offense you feel they committed?

Read [Colossians 3:12](#), [Proverbs 15:1](#), and [Colossians 4:5-6](#). How do you generally respond to an offense?

When conflict arises, it's easy to respond in a way that doesn't honor God, because we feel as though we are validated in our response. Why would we feel it's ok to validate a sinful response?

2. Why is it so important to suppress the temptation to validate a response that doesn't honor God or others?

What is your gauge for determining whether or not you've committed an offense?

In what ways are you the offender and need to take responsibility for your actions?

If you haven't changed or aren't in the process of changing, you haven't taken responsibility. What offenses do you find yourself repeating with no change? What keeps you from changing this behavior?

3. Below are four steps we must take to be responsible.

Acknowledgment of the problem.

Read [Psalm 32:5](#). Why is the step of acknowledging our sin so important? What offense needs acknowledged?

Total surrender of your will to God.

Read [Luke 9:23](#). What keeps us from wanting to surrender our will to God?

Consistent engagement with the right people.

Read [1 Corinthians 15:33](#). The right people care enough to encourage you, support you, and confront you. Who in your life is doing this for you? Who in your life is not?

Feed the spirit.

Read [Galatians 5:17](#). If we feed the sinful nature, it grows. How do we starve the sinful nature? If we feed the Spirit, it grows. What are you doing to feed the Spirit?

ACTION STEP

4. What is one step you can take this week to be responsible?

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

To determine how your group can serve together in our community, email Breanne Schafer at bschafer@eclife.org.

FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW FOR THIS UPCOMING WEEK'S ACTION STEPS.

My action step is _____.

This coming week, I will encourage _____ to complete their action step.

Their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I will pray for the group's following prayer requests:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____