

## Application / Accountability

Because we want to ensure that our Community Groups are encouraging people to live out principles they are learning in Scripture, we want to emphasize application and accountability. To do this practically, leaders should commit to asking the following questions several times throughout the year during prayer time, as well as following up to see how everyone is doing:

- What points of conviction do you feel as a result of your study in God's Word (Isaiah, Acts, 1 Corinthians)? What steps do you need to take to apply it?
- What about your character or situation will make applying that principle difficult? How can you overcome that challenge?

In asking these questions, we are trying to get people to go beyond, "I need to share my faith" to "I need to share my faith with my coworker Mimi." We want practical steps that people can begin taking, whether it be an attitude or an action. And, we also want to provide context for people to be held accountable.

Doing this will require a couple of things in terms of planning by the leaders. First, they will need to figure out when they are going to do this. **If they are not intentional about scheduling, this will fall through the cracks.** Our goal is for groups to do this at least 6 times throughout the year. We hope that doing this sporadically throughout the year will hopefully allow for people to not feel overwhelmed and/or legalistic, but also provide some structure and accountability to thinking through how God's Word is encouraging them to grow in godliness.

Second, leaders will have to work to hold participants accountable and create a culture where accountability can occur in love. A lot of times, God brings us to maturity through community. The best way to begin to establish the right culture and tone is by spending time praying for each other after everyone answers the questions above.

Lastly, this is not designed to shame people or make them feel like they are bad Christians. There is definitely a way to hold people accountable in love, and leaders will have to strike the right balance between loving/encouraging and pushing/challenging.