

Those Critical People

Prov. 15:1, 31-32; 12:18; Acts 11:2-4, 18; Matt. 5:44-45; 1 Peter 2:23

July 16, 2017

Community Group Discussion Questions

Please Read Before Leading Discussion

- **Recommended questions are highlighted in bold, but select 5 or 6 questions you think will work best for your group and discussion.** You likely won't have time to discuss all of the questions so choose which questions you will ask ahead of time.
- Feel free to edit or reword questions to best fit your group.
- You may want to print out copies of this document for everyone so they can follow along with the questions as you read them.
- Check out this Facilitation Guide (<http://bit.ly/FacilitationGuide>) for tips on leading good discussions.

POSSIBLE ICEBREAKERS (5-10 Minutes)

(Keep it short. Longer than 10 minutes isn't an ice-breaker – it's a conversation.)

- **Share your name and answer the following icebreaker:**
 - **What is your favorite hobby?**

OPENING THE DISCUSSION (5-10 Minutes)

(As people share, utilize follow-up questions to keep the discussion as natural as possible: Tell me more, what do mean by that?, Anyone else?)

- **What was your biggest takeaway from Sunday's message? A thought, principle, idea, question, quote, etc.**

DIGGING DEEPER (10 Minutes)

(Be sure to manage your time so you can get to "Applying It".)

- **Read Proverbs 12:18**
 - **What stands out to your from this verse?**
- **Read 1 Peter 2:23**
 - **What can we learn from Jesus response to criticism in this verse?**
- **Nate's main point was that "Our greatest challenge is not the criticism we receive, but the criticism we deliver."**
 - **Is it more difficult for you to take the criticism of others or to stop being critical yourself?**
- **Nate shared 2 truths about us when we face criticism**
 - 1. Sinful people tend to respond sinfully when sinned against**
 - 2. Our natural reaction to criticism is to defend and attack**
 - **How do you typically respond to criticism?**
- **Nate talked about 3 types of criticism we receive**
 - 1. Constructive Criticism – needed for growth**
 - 2. Inaccurate Criticism – misperception of facts**
 - 3. Malicious Criticism – aimed at hurting someone**
 - **In what ways have you experienced any of these types of criticism?**
- **Nate gave 3 prayerful responses to criticism**
 - 1. God, help me to know when to respond to criticism**
 - 2. God, help me to know when to dismiss invalid criticism**
 - 3. God, help me to overcome my own critical nature**
 - **Which of these prayers do you need to focus on the most?**

APPLYING IT (10-20 Minutes)

- **What criticism or what critical person are you most struggling with right now?**
- **What is one thing you would like to do differently as a result of this sermon?**