

Those Manipulative People

Isaiah 26:3-4, Galatians 1:10

August 6, 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 the longest trip you have ever taken?**

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.**
- **What are the most common ways you see those around you manipulate others?**

DIGGING DEEPER (10-15 Minutes)

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

- **Read Isaiah 26:3-4 and Mark's main point "Manipulating ends when trust in God begins."**
 - **How would you explain how trust in God might keep us from manipulating others?**
- **Read Galatians 1:10**
 - **How do you think seeking approval from others instead of God impacts our willingness to allow others to manipulate us?**
- **Mark shared 2 reasons we are prone toward manipulation**
 - 1. I want to be in control**
 - 2. I believe I make a better God**
 - **Which of these is truer of you?**
- **Mark shared 3 attributes of manipulators**
 - 1. Inventive – make up ways to get what you want**
 - 2. Resourceful – flatter, threat, or guilt trip to get what you want**
 - 3. Idolatrous – looking to people instead of God to get what you want**
 - **Which of these do you see most often in yourself?**

APPLYING IT (10-20 Minutes) (These questions might be best for prayer time)

- **Mark shared 2 "handlebars" to overcome manipulation:**
 - 1. Lose control (surrender control to God)**
 - 2. Find approval (in God not people)**
 - **Which one of these two handlebars do you need to focus on and why?**
 - **Based on which handlebar you picked, what do you need to specifically stop doing and/or start doing to take that step?**