



Discussion Guide for “Reciprocity”

Growing Together Week 7

Healthy relationships take work - and they really only thrive when BOTH people are putting in the effort. So how can you learn to spot unhealthy people? Is there a way to be generous and kind without constantly being taken advantage of?

Scriptures for Further Reading

[John 21:15-21](#)

[Philippians 2:1-4](#)

[James 1:19-20](#)

[Proverbs 15:1](#)

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. You can find a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week’s sacred reading is [John 21:1-25](#).

Questions for Discussion

1. Review the Prisoner’s Dilemma. How would you respond in that situation? What are the benefits and dangers of trusting? Of being selfish?
2. In relationships, do you tend to be more trusting or more selfish?
3. Axlerod’s four commitments to resolving the Dilemma are Nice, Retaliating, Forgiving and Non-envious. What do those look like in real-world relationships (especially for Jesus-followers)?
4. Which of Axlerod’s commitments do you struggle with the most? Why?
5. Review Jesus’ confrontation with Peter in John 21. Why was it necessary for Jesus to do this? What stuck out to you most in their interaction? Talk about the state of their relationship before and after this confrontation.
6. How is God calling you to healthier relationships this week?