



I Declare

Week 4: I Won't let Criticism Hold me Back

CCV Groups Discussion Guide

OPENING QUESTION:

Share one thing about yourself that no one could know just by looking at you. This could be a hobby, habit, phobia, or a “stupid human trick.”

GROUPS VIDEO GUIDE

READ:

[John 15:9-25](#)

DISCUSS:

- When was the last time you were criticized? You can share what it was if you like, but what's most important is how it made you feel and why it made you feel that way.
- What advice would you give to a teenager who has been harshly criticized so that they could use the criticism for personal growth?
- Reading [2 Corinthians 10:1-11](#) and [11:6-12](#), how did the Apostle Paul respond when criticized? What lessons can we learn from this?
- Would someone be willing to share a recent criticism you have received? BIG ASK: share it with the group and model the lessons we have talked about to turn criticism into personal growth.

PRAYER:

The Bible tells us to pray for our enemies ([Matthew 5:44](#)). Take a moment for silent prayer to thank God for the person who criticized you. Tell God what they said. Tell him why it hurt. Ask God to reveal to you what you need to do to minimize the opportunity for anyone to say that about you again. The leader will then audibly close in prayer.

SCRIPTURES:

James 1:19–20, “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

Romans 14:4, “Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.”

Proverbs 15:1, “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Proverbs 27:5–6, “Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.”

Proverbs 15:31, “The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise.”

Proverbs 29:11, “A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.”

Proverbs 9:8, “Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.”