



Needy People

Introduction

The negative neighbor. The critical co-worker. The manipulative family member. You haven't seen these people in a year and now you're working next to them and seeing them at thanksgiving. We all have difficult people in our lives. Let's learn how we can live with—and show love to people that are hard to love.

Pray

Don't forget that if anything significant happens, it's because God moved. Start by asking God to bless this time.

Practice Truth

1. How do you respond when you're walking or driving and someone at a corner asks you for money?
2. Who are the most life-giving people that you know? What makes them that way?
3. Dirk said, "You can't say 'yes' often if you don't say 'no' occasionally." How does it make you feel to say no? How did you come to feel this way?
4. What's the difference between a hand out and a hand up? Provide examples.
5. Do you sometimes become paralyzed by how great of a need there is? How can this saying help, "Do for one what you wish could do for all."

Leader's Tip

Allow a little messiness. Families are messy because people are messy. In a group we don't want to put on a veneer of spiritual perfection that makes everyone feel like they can't be real and admit their weaknesses and fears. Messiness can be intimidating, but it's a breeding ground for grace.

Do Life Together

We can talk about how great other people needs are but the truth is, we're all needy. Which area of your life is most impoverished? How can you allow God to meet you there? End your time by confessing your needs together and to God.