



Us: Circle of Trust | March 1, 2017

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Family relationships are all about trust. Communication and expectations dictate that trust. We are always in an exchange of gaining, losing, and extending trust.

Key Verse

Colossians 3:15-17 (MSG)

Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.

Discussion

Dave Ramsey's daughter, Rachel Cruze, often refers to a concept her parents used to describe trust in their family called "The Rope." You could either gain more rope by earning trust or shorten the rope by doing things that broke trust.

1. Tell a fun story of a time you broke trust as a kid and what you had to do to earn it back?

The very word "trust" is hard to define. Rather than define it, most of us try to describe it based on times we established it, earned it, or times we lost it. Trust is not a static concept; it is more of a dance based on give and take within a relationship.

2. Describe trust and what it means to you.
3. How might you communicate to someone in your life how he or she loses length on the rope?

Colossians 3:15-17 challenges us to take others into consideration when measuring the length of our rope. In close relationships, the Bible suggests that there is not room for "going off and doing our own thing." The idea that the people in your life also hold an end of the rope forces us to reflect on how grace has been extended to us when it comes to the times we have broken trust.

4. In what ways have you broken trust with someone significant in your life? How might you gain a portion of that rope back?
5. What conversations do you need to have to set the expectations for how you gain and lose rope?

What's Next?

As you move through the week, consider how you can extend and earn more rope so that God can have the run of the house. Use the rope metaphor to "instruct and direct one another" in a healthy, honest, and safe way. God wants you to sing your heart out because your relationships are fulfilling. Trust is the foundation of that freedom.

Unfortunately, there are relationships that aren't much of a relationship any longer because there is no more rope to extend or remove. If this is the case for you, seek help on how you could trust enough to hand the end of the rope back to that person and start a new exchange.