

# building authenticity

## *in your group*

Authenticity is a core value every small group should adopt and nurture. Why? Because if we can't be ourselves it will be difficult to experience the community, revelation and breakthrough that God has in store for us when we come together to pursue Him.

As a small group leader, you will help model authenticity in the group. We have great news for you: leading doesn't mean you have to have all the answers or the perfect life. You simply need to have genuine love for the women you are leading, a desire to see them direct their lives towards Jesus, and an honest perspective of your own weakness and where your strength comes from.

In 2 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul shares a word from God that is just as relevant to us today:



And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9 NKJV

Simply put, being authentic with people about our weaknesses provides the most powerful model of humility, authority, and spiritual power.

This doesn't mean we project or encourage a low level perspective of ourselves or others. God-honoring humility is quite different from self-critical belittling. You - and each woman in your group - is a beloved daughter of the Most High King, and each of us is on a journey to understanding and applying that in our lives.

## RESPONDING TO AUTHENTICITY

When people share with vulnerability, the way the group responds is crucial to whether a culture of trust and authenticity is enhanced or deteriorated. There are two rules:

- **ALWAYS RESPOND** - Don't ever let a vulnerable moment go unattended or unacknowledged.
- **ALWAYS RESPOND WITH LOVE** - Resist any urge to correct or advise. Often, being heard is enough. Make eye contact with the individual and say something like, "Thank you for being so open with us," "You're not alone in this," or simply, "We love you so much."

You may find that additional response is needed such as stopping in the moment to pray over the woman, or approaching her privately to see if you can connect her with support. Your goal as a leader is to create a community where people are known and loved.

If your small group is connected to a church, your first stop for support should be the pastor who oversees small groups. If you're not sure where to go for support, you can reach out to Erin and Alissa at [hellobetogtherco@gmail.com](mailto:hellobetogtherco@gmail.com) and we will do our best to provide guidance or connect you with resources.

