# FACILITATION HELP: SAFETY IS KEY

Once you've been with the same small group for several weeks, you and your students may begin to feel more comfortable sharing with each other. As the leader, it's important to regularly reinforce a safe environment to speak, ask questions, and express struggles. You can foster safety in your group discussions by not reacting strongly to comments or confessions. Remind students at the beginning of discussions, particularly on weeks where you are addressing sensitive topics, that the information shared by fellow students should stay in the group. In the end, students need to understand that while it is important to speak the truth, it should only happen in the context of loving and caring relationships (Ephesians 4:15).



What are you accountable for?

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God designed us to rely on one another, not just ourselves.

ESSENTIALS QUESTION: WHOM ARE YOU ACCOUNTABLE TO?

**STUDENT DISCUSSION 1:** 

WHY ARE SOME CHRISTIANS HESITANT TO ADMIT TO OTHER CHRISTIANS WHEN THEY ARE CAUGHT UP IN SOME KIND OF SIN?

### STUDENT DISCUSSION 2:

WHAT STORY OF CHRISTIAN ACCOUNTABILITY FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT STANDS OUT TO YOU THE MOST? (Peter to Paul in Galatians 2, Mark to Barnabas in Acts 15, Annanias and Sapphira to the elders in Acts 5, Paul to James and the elders in Acts 21)

#### **STUDENT DISCUSSION 3:**

WHILE GALATIANS 6:2 CHALLENGES BELIEVERS TO HELP CARRY EACH OTHER'S BURDENS, VERSE 5 SAYS THAT WE SHOULD EACH CARRY OUR OWN LOAD. HOW CAN THESE BOTH BE TRUE AT THE SAME TIME?

In verse 2, Paul is speaking of a temporary time period. We can help those who are struggling until they can manage it for themselves again. However, in verse 5, Paul is reminding us that we must ultimately answer for ourselves. In the end, we are responsible for our own lives.

# DROP THE MIC >>

### CONCLUDE YOUR DISCUSSION WITH:

- » **ACTION PLAN:** How do you plan to think and act differently?
- » **FINAL REFLECTION**: We need other believers both to encourage us when we are struggling and to challenge us when we are failing.
- » **FINAL QUESTION**: Who is personally challenging you to grow?