



## SMALL GROUP GROUND RULES

*As you embark on this study, take a moment to remind read through the group ground rules listed below. These are meant to help clarify expectations and to shape our conversations during this study.*

### WE AGREE AS A GROUP TO STRIVE TO...

- 1. Be authentic.** No masks, no facades. We will be ourselves, open and honest with one another.
- 2. Give priority to group meetings & one another.** A primary responsibility of community is to prioritize specific relationships. This requires a willingness to be available to meet each other's needs inside and outside of the formal group time and means I'll call if I'm going to be late or absent.
- 3. Be confidential.** For authenticity to occur, members must be able to trust that issues discussed in our group are not to be shared outside of it. Help create a safe place where others can wrestle through the concepts and ideas from this study, but also a place filled with truth. John describes Christ as being "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). I pray that this is how this group will be described.
- 4. Show respect.** Group members should never say anything that will embarrass their spouse or members of the group. Get permission before you share. During the group discussion, don't be afraid to share with the group; but also try not to dominate the conversation so that others can also share.
- 5. Resolve conflict.** We will avoid gossip and immediately resolve concerns by following the principles of Matthew 18:15-17 which begins with going directly to the person with whom we have an issue.
- 6. Build relationships.** We'll get to know the other members of our group and pray for them regularly.
- 7. Rely on Scripture & Resist Giving Advice.** We are prone to use conventional, worldly wisdom as truth. While there is value in that, this is not the place. If you feel led to respond, please try to respond with God's truth and Word, and resist giving "advice" to others or trying to solve each other's problems. This is the place for confessing, discovery and applying truth together as a group. Lastly, some topics may surface big emotions or past wounds that will require you to seek out a wise friend or professional counselor to help you process through them outside of the group experience. If you'd like to find a recommended counselor in our area, please reach out to Pastor Brent at BrentB@obcc.church