

WEEK 4

FORMED TOGETHER

Chapters 6-7 | Sharpened, Not Shamed + Walking Close: Share the Load

BIG IDEA

Healthy community does more than comfort us. God uses people to form us through truth that sharpens and through people who help carry heavy burdens.

THIS WEEK

Chapters 6 and 7 move us from simply having relationships to allowing healthy relationships to help form us. We need people close enough to tell us the truth without shaming us and close enough to put a shoulder under the weight when life becomes heavy.

BEFORE GROUP

- Read Chapter 6: *Sharpened, Not Shamed*
- Read Chapter 7: *Walking Close: Share the Load*
- Complete the personal Reflection Questions at the end of both chapters
- Review the Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 Discussion Guides in the back of the book

SCRIPTURE

PROVERBS 27:17

"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend." As you read, consider what this picture teaches about relationships, contact, truth, and spiritual growth.

GALATIANS 6:2

"Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ." Consider what would change if burden-bearing became something we practiced, not simply something we admired.

WHAT STAYED WITH ME?

What stood out most from Chapters 6 and 7?

WHAT IS GOD SHOWING ME?

What did you recognize about the way you receive correction, tell the truth, give help, or allow others to help you?

FROM OUR CONVERSATION

Write down something from the group conversation that challenged, encouraged, or helped you.

PAUSE AND CONSIDER

Who has permission to tell me something I may not want to hear? And who is close enough to help carry a burden when life becomes heavy?

TRUTH + SUPPORT

A person I trust to speak truth into my life:

A burden I may need to stop carrying by myself:

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE

TRUTH + TANGIBLE SUPPORT

- 1. Choose someone you trust and ask: **"Is there anything you see in my life that could be keeping me from becoming who God has called me to be?"** Then listen, pray, and resist the urge to immediately defend yourself.
- 2. Look for one burden someone close to you is carrying and do something tangible to help make it lighter.

MY STEP THIS WEEK

The person I will invite to speak honestly into my life:

One practical way I can help carry someone else's burden:

PRAY TOGETHER

Where do you need humility to receive truth, courage to ask for help, or grace to help carry someone else this week?

Who can I pray for or check on this week?

REMEMBER

Healthy community does not shame us into becoming different. It sharpens us into becoming more like Christ. And sometimes the answer to someone's prayer looks like people showing up.

BEFORE WEEK 5

Read Chapters 8-9: *Together in His Presence* and *Stay Present Under Pressure*. Complete the Reflection Questions and review the corresponding Discussion Guides.

Next question: What happens when community gathers around Jesus and then has to stay connected when relationships become uncomfortable?