

WHAT MATTERS

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Part 3 - "The Foundation to Matter"

Small Group Material

January 22nd, 2017

Participant Guide

Bottom Line: *Authenticity begins with honesty.*

Study Verses: *Genesis 1:26-27, Colossians 3:7-10, Psalm 51:6, James 1:22-25, Psalm 1:1-3*

Key Points

- *If you want to pursue truth, you begin by pursuing Jesus.*
- *Trust can be shaken simply by suspicion. Distrust only requires a question mark.*
- *Faith is a heart set that allows your experience to catch up with reality.*
- *Authenticity isn't about being perfect, but about identity and the image you are reflecting.*
- *Authenticity provides a standard for truth and a foundation for trust.*
- *Transparency is what you are allowed to see. Authenticity is trusting what you see.*
- *The value of authenticity requires that we are relentlessly looking for and pursuing what is true.*
- *Authenticity requires process and is dependent on grace. We're all works in progress.*
- *We are experts at retelling false narratives. We must examine the stories we keep telling about ourselves and others.*

ENCOUNTER

- Authenticity has become a buzzword in today's culture. What do you believe is behind this push to be "authentic"?
- How would you describe or define AUTHENTICITY? Why is it important that our church community values authenticity? How is understanding and valuing authenticity critical in your own life?
- How have you seen authenticity misused and distorted into something it is not (ex. "this is just who I am..I'm being real")? What are the differences between transparency and authenticity?
- Is it possible to trust an imperfect person? Why or why not? What makes you answer in the way that you do?

FORMATION

- Read Genesis 1:26-27. Why does authenticity require a standard?
- Read James 1:22-25. How does this verse speak to authenticity not being about achieving a standard or perfection, but rather our identity and the image we are reflecting?
- Read Colossians 3:7-10. What role does process and grace play in valuing authenticity in your life and the life of other believers?
- Read Psalm 1:1-3. What level of security does living an authentic life provide?

EXPRESSION

- What false narratives do you keep telling about yourself or others? How does this story come to be? Why do you continue to tell it?
- Read Psalm 51:6. Where are you resistant to allow God's truth to penetrate your innermost being? If authenticity requires honesty, why does this place of your heart remain hidden and unaddressed?
- Are there relationships where your inauthenticity has caused mistrust or suspicion to spring up? How can you mend this relationship?