



Time to Redefine May 6: Accountability

Series Summary: There are a lot of words that we hear and use as Christians, whether that be inside or outside of church walls. We use some terms loosely, lose the original meaning, or use certain words in a way where we want them to mean what we selfishly want them to mean. We need to get back to the original meaning if we truly want to understand the Lord, and our faith, better.

Big Idea: The concept of accountability. It is important to have accountability from others as you walk through life, but we have to hold ourselves accountable as well. This is so easy to live out poorly because our innate prideful nature will make us want to always push blame elsewhere.

Schedule:

- Live teaching
- Small group

SMALL GROUP TEACHING

Tonight: It is important to have accountability from others as you walk through life, but we have to hold ourselves accountable as well. This is so easy to live out poorly because our innate prideful nature will make us want to always push blame elsewhere.

SMALL GROUP LEAD-IN

When I was a high school student back in the olden, and black-and-white days of 2010-2012 there was one term that you would've thought was a make-or-break factor of your faith—accountability partner.

- Don't get me wrong, this concept is a great one- having one or two people that you trust to help you stay accountable in your faith, and you return the favor to them.
- The issue is that the deepest depth this concept ever seemed to go was someone randomly remembering once every three weeks, and they'd send a random text- ("hey, you been reading your bible?"....."yeah"...."ight sounds good") And that was it.
- I remember thinking in the moments where I wasn't doing too hot in my faith actually starting to push blame on who I trusted to hold me accountable. ("They're supposed to be holding me accountable, and they're failing!")

This is what I hope to define tonight. The concept of accountability. It is important to have accountability from others as you walk through life, but we have to hold ourselves accountable as well. This is so easy to live out poorly because our innate prideful nature will make us want to always push blame elsewhere.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

LEADER NOTE: A common theme or reminder for this discussion is to hold yourself accountable, and have others hold us accountable during the summer time as we take a break from our small groups.

- **The first thought for tonight is about living lives accountable towards God.**

Romans 14:11-12 It is written: "‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’"**12** So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

We are first and foremost accountable to God with our lives. How should this understanding drive us to be more accountable for ourselves in all we say and do?

ACCOUNTABILITY WITH ONE ANOTHER

Have you ever had a successful accountability partner before? If so, then what do you think made it successful? (Junior high students are less likely to have experience with this)

What would you say are qualities that are must-haves when seeking out an accountability partner?

Potential answers: First and foremost they need to follow Jesus. Trustworthy, honest, compassionate. Do they have a habit of gossiping? Do they get angry quickly? Do they care more about you or your feelings?

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

What is the difference between someone sharpening me, and I like them as my friend? How does this play into us picking accountability partners?

Leader note: As harsh as it may sound, there is wisdom in evaluating your brothers and sisters around you. Nobody is perfect, but we do have different strengths and weaknesses. There is definite potential that not everyone who is your friend would make a good accountability partner. There is a possibility that someone can be a Christian and not sharpen others. We have to be wise and discerning when seeking these individuals.

EXCUSES PREVENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Why do excuses prevent accountability?

Proverbs 24:12 If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay everyone according to what they have done?

Why is no excuse good enough when it comes to holding ourselves accountable?

Leader Note: if you're a new believer still learning what is holy or unholy, acceptable vs unacceptable, pleasing to God vs unpleasing to God, etc, then continue to learn! But for both new believers, and those who have been walking with Jesus for a good while, always cut out excuse making. If you are unsure about a lifestyle or way of living then ask questions! I guarantee you can find someone who will have a correct answer.

Final thought: Help hold each other accountable this summer. Meet up, hang out, but make those moments Godly in nature as well.