Our Neediness is God's Gift - Exodus Church CG Leader Huddle - January 31, 2021

PRIOR to Huddle on January 31st, take a moment and reflect on how you respond in the midst of both every-day times of need and overwhelming times of need.

1. How easy is it for you to express your own needs to God and to share them with others?
2. Are you able to identify specific ways you can grow in expressing your neediness to God and others?
3. Write about a recent experience, good or bad, and identify ways you can grow in expressing your neediness to God and others.

PRIOR to Huddle on January 31st, Watch the 38 minute video *Our Neediness is God's Gift* by Ed Welch, and reflect on the following:

Ed focused our attention on our essential weakness and neediness. We are designed to be needy, and this fact is essential to life with Christ and life in the body of Christ. But at the same time, and because the Spirit has been given, we are also people who are capable of helping others.

1. As you consider ministry to others, why do you think it is helpful to first focus your attention on your essential neediness instead of your strength?
2. Read and reflect on 1 Cor 1:18-31. What does Paul explain about the relationship of the gospel message to weakness and foolishness?
3. How does Christian ministry fit into GOd's calling to be humble, and how does Paul's exhortation in verses 26-31 move us toward dependence in ministry?

DURING HUDDLE on January 31st, discuss as many of the following with your parish.

We'd like side-by-side ministry to be orderly, but in reality it is anything but. We are messy! Leading community groups is messy! How does the messiness personally challenge you?

Neediness is essential to our faith and life in the body of Christ. What words and themes from scripture shape your thinking and response to this reality?

Do you tend to feel *worthy* of the Lord, living without knowledge of your sin and feeling no need for his grace? OR do you tend to feel *unworthy* of the Lord, and so unable to express your need to him because you haven't yet met his standard?

When you read scripture, do you tend to use the passages to *manage* your feelings, or does the bible draw you toward Christ *in the midst* of your need?

What do Job 38 and Romans 1-2 teach about our fundamental relationship to God and others? How do they encourage you in your growth in neediness?

Neediness changes how we pray and ask for prayer. Discuss a time in your community group when prayer together was different because someone was transparently needy.

What is one way you have already or could more intentionally foster transparency in your small group or other relationships?

What is the difference between moving toward someone in partnership and moving toward someone because *you know what they need*?

Do you struggle with taking "the long walk" with someone who is in a season of suffering? If someone has come to mind, how could you move toward them with your own neediness in mind?

How could an approach like this change the culture of your group? Or the culture of Exodus?