A-TYPICAL

Loving Christian Community

Ice-Breaker:

In your opinion, what is the main barrier that keeps people from building deep, authentic relationships with others?

Discussion:

1. **Read Acts 2:46; Hebrews 10:25. Why is spending a good deal of time with other Christians so important in our spiritual lives?**

2. **Read Romans 12:9; I John 1:7-8; James 5:16.**

   - **Why is it so difficult for us to be authentic and share our struggles with other people?**
   - **Why is it healing to do so?**

3. **Read Hebrews 10:24 and Romans 12:10.**

   - **What would it look like to spur another person on toward love and good deeds?**
   - **What does it mean to honor another person above yourself?**

4. **Read Hebrews 3:13 and Ephesians 4:29.**

   - **Why is daily (regular) encouragement so crucial in our lives?**
   - **How does encouragement keep us from sin?**
   - **Why do you suppose it's important to know a person's circumstances before you can know how to encourage them best?**

5. **Read Titus 3:2 and Romans 14:1. Why is it important to be considerate and humble toward all people – even those who need extra grace and are difficult to love?**

Application:

- **Do you have at least one relationship that is characterized by significant time, authenticity, commitment, encouragement and courtesy? If not, how might you begin to pursue that?**