

LIFE GROUP #1 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – THE “CHALLENGER”

1. Share your name, your favorite desert, and if you had heard about the Enneagram prior to this sermon series
2. What you would like to get out of this small group
3. This past Sunday we talked about “The Challenger” – did any of you get the sense you might be that personality type, or did someone in your life come to mind when you heard the description ?

So I want to dive into the light issues of anger and confrontation tonight

4. Share a time where you witnessed a situation you thought was really unfair - at home, at work, or on the street - and how you reacted to it - how did you respond in the moment ?
5. Describe a time you were so sure you were right, and you stubbornly stuck to your guns, only to find out later you were wrong
6. How would you describe your most typical mode of anger:

Short Fuse - Fly off the handle, Confront then and there

Long Fuse - Slow Simmer - then boil over later

What Fuse ? You feel guilty getting angry so you just drop it

7. What techniques have you discovered that help you deal with your anger in a more healthy way ?
8. What strikes you most about our scripture Romans 12:18-21:
If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
9. How can we pray for you this week ?

ENNEAGRAM Sermon Notes: "THE CHALLENGER" #8

The need to be against

"You've got to be tough"

Self Image: "I am strong"

Core Desire: To protect themselves from others, be in control

Core Fear: Being Controlled by others/out of control Wants to avoid: Weakness

Primary Temptation: A feeling of Justice that leads to Revenge

Root sin: shamelessness, lust for intensity

- None of the 9 Personality types is "Better" or "Worse" than any other
- Each Personality Type tends toward particular: Gifts & Talents, Needs & Desires, Sins & Fears, Ways we like to do life, unhealthy Temptations
- It can be shaming or liberating to discover your Personality type
- There is a range from healthy to unhealthy forms of every Personality type and we can go from one extreme to the other on a daily basis
- Take this model with a grain of salt, and focus on "Why do I behave the way I do?"
- My Goal: To love God & neighbor better – with my kind of crazy

Challengers believe they must control their **environment** and people in order to get what they want. As a result, Challengers tend to have problems with **anger** and with allowing themselves to be **open** and **vulnerable**.

ROMANS 12:18-21

If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

STEPS A "CHALLENGER" CAN TAKE:

1. Too often, your intensity and lust for life runs the show. Your personality is twice as big and intense as you think it is, and what feels like passion to you often feels like intimidation to others. Remember moderation, moderation, moderation. Give a friend permission to tell you when you're going overboard or exhibiting extreme behaviors.
2. Don't judge yourself or others as weak for sharing tender feelings. Broaden your definition of strength and courage to include vulnerability. Risk sharing your heart at deeper levels with someone in your life. Practice offering mercy.
3. Avoid black and white thinking. Gray is an actual color. You don't have a corner on the truth market. In the heat of battle, stop and ask yourself, "What if I'm' wrong? Say that a hundred times a day. Practice admitting when you are wrong.

This series draws heavily from "*The Road Back to You*" by Cron and Stabile
For the podcast and other resources, go to www.Leverington.org