

Small Group  
Discussion Questions

Read the passage together and reflect on it as a group. Open in prayer.

1. What stood out to you in the passage? What questions do you have about the trust? Trust is pretty fundamental for the building of relationships.
2. How is trust developed?
3. What erodes trust?
4. What are the possible ramifications of trusting someone prematurely, implicitly or completely?
5. Are you the type of person who trusts people initially until they break your trust or are you the type who trusts no one until they have earned your trust?
6. Share a time when the lack of boundaries in the area of trust affected your life.
7. What do you do to protect yourself from scams/fraud and have you ever fallen for a scam?
8. You see it all the time in the news, someone being assaulted or even murdered. Our culture is particularly dangerous for women. What do you do to protect yourself and/or your family?
9. Do you have a biblical view of people? One of the essential doctrines of the Christian faith is the depravity of humanity. Do you believe people are depraved? How does your view of people affect your approach to trust?
10. It's important to remind ourselves that we are human and are depraved as well. We need to protect ourselves from ourselves and the things that are in the basement of our lives. We all have basements, things we

struggle with. It could be lust, greed, anger, jealousy, bitterness, worry or a host of things. What do you do to protect yourself and keep what's in the basement restrained, if not destroyed?

NOTE: You do not have to share what you struggle with. It's up to you and the level of trust that has been formed in your group. If you are in a new group it may be premature to share these deeply personal things. If anyone in your group does share a deeply private matter it is essential that the group keeps it in strict confidence. Also it is important not to shame the person or respond with shock. To defeat areas of weakness we need the Lord, to be transparent with others so they hold us accountable, and we need the unconditional acceptance of others)

11. If you've been hurt a lot in the past or experienced trauma it'll make it more difficult for you to trust people. How has your past affected your ability to develop deep friendships? What can we do to avoid being overly jaded about people and as a result fear letting people into our lives?
12. Does anyone have anything else to share or have a question they want to ask that hasn't been covered so far?

Close with prayer and lift up every person in the group individually. Use what was shared to inform your prayers.