



Groups are regular, long haul space to **share, care, trust and grow**. Welcome!

Facilitator Prep: Read the guide & [message notes](#). Note your own thoughts to grease the wheels. Trust the 3 strands showing up!

Get Started

10-15 mins

- **Welcome!** Part of Greg's long-term pitching mound (see last week) is this idea that God doesn't play games. Unfortunately most people have an image of God that has God playing all sorts of games with us. That makes a mockery of what God really is and makes us lesser people along with it. This week is a chance to crack that open and let God – and us – out! Today can be a chance to free God and yourselves from something less than the God that is, and that you need.
- **Choose a tangible way to set apart this time.** Light a candle, raise your cups, your 3-strands...create your own ritual!
- Review the **Group Agreements** each week. Take your time, passing around to read. We do this every week so they are part of the Group when we need them. It's a 'practice when it's easy so you have the skills you need when it's not' thing.
- **Check-In.** Share names and something you came for today. *What is something you are hoping for from this time together?* May all that be so! Thank you for showing up today. It matters – for others, not just you – that you are present today.

Discussion & Practice Ideas

30-60 mins

1. **Warm up.** Greg suggested that Gap Theology is something that most of the western world has adopted as a way of thinking about God. Walk through the diagram (next page) and see if it makes sense and sounds familiar to you. How do you see this played out in people's lives – *maybe your own?*
2. **"Neither God nor Jesus need or want credit."** That's a pretty bold statement that runs counter to how many people approach religion and Christianity. What does it mean to you? What is the truth within it, and what might it be missing?
3. **Reading the Bible?** ? It is good to R.O.A.M. over a single verse or story to get a up close perspective. It is also important to get the larger context. The biblical writers were very deliberate in how they put the books together within the Bible. They often communicated a lot with how a story is told or where it is set, not just by what is in it. Greg was showing how that is true with the story of the transfiguration of Jesus in Mark 9. *Read Mark 8.14-26 & 9.2-9 in groups of 3 or 4 and share thoughts, insights, reactions. Question: What do you think the point of this story is? Why did the writers include it? What were they trying to let us know?*

Close

5-15 mins

Take aways. Invite everyone to share one. Thanks for these gifts you've given each other. May they keep on giving!

Check in on plans for upcoming meetings: who is facilitating, providing hospitality, or other needs of your group. *Remember, anyone is welcome to serve the group as facilitator.* **Next meeting:**



Gap Theology



Group Agreements

1. **Push pause.** The world is noisy. Before speaking, take a breath.... let Silence be a voice in your Group.
2. **Be present.** Your being here matters! Step up to share when you are ready. Step back to listen.
3. **Share what you want** when you want. "I'll pass" is always an option.
4. **Confidentiality.** Always ask before sharing anything outside the group, even if it is with the most supportive of intentions.
5. **Wonder over judgment.** Stay curious about yourself and others. Practice open and honest questions. Asking "how" not "why" can take you on a tour instead of a trial of yourself and others.
6. **Listening is a superpower.** Listening to others share their own experiences, struggle and strength is empowering. So is being listened to!
7. **Speak from your own experience,** to the whole group. Ask for help or feedback for yourself if you'd like, but avoid crosstalk, fixing, interpretation, or unsolicited advice directed toward another group member.

These agreements are practiced, not perfected! You can always circle back with the group or an individual to share how something felt to you or check in. Practice when it's easy!

Sometimes there will be care and support needs that go beyond what can be addressed within your normal group operation. That's a good time to pull out the [Care IQ](#) tools.

