

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week #4 - Does God Care About My Reputation?



GETTING STARTED

What's something people often assume about you that isn't true? Or: If someone said "Your reputation precedes you," what would you hope they mean by that?

THIS WEEK'S THEME

Angie began with the idea that our reputations can open doors or close them. How have you seen that happen – in your own life or in others'?

She shared a deeply personal story about shame and judgment. Why do you think reputation and perception can carry such power in faith communities?

Read Joshua 2:1-21. What risks did Rahab take in hiding the spies? What do those actions show about her faith?

How does Rahab's confession in verse 11 ("for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below") reveal her understanding of God's reputation?

How does the red scarlet cord become a symbol of redemption and faith?

Read Matthew 1:1-6. What does it tell you about God's character that Rahab, someone with a painful and judged past, is part of Jesus' family line?

What does that mean for how we view our own stories – and the stories of others who carry labels or reputations?

What does Rahab's story teach us about how God sees beyond human labels and reputations?

The sermon said: "God is far more concerned about your redemption than your reputation." How does that truth bring freedom or challenge you?

TAKING IT HOME

This week, reflect on where you might be more worried about your reputation than your redemption.

- Is there a place you've been hiding out of fear of what people might think?
- What would it look like to trust that God's reputation – faithfulness, grace, and love – defines you more than what others say or think?

PRAY

God of redemption, thank you for seeing past our reputations and loving us as we are. Like Rahab, give us courage to trust you, even when others don't understand. Remind us that your reputation – your goodness, your faithfulness – always goes before us. In Jesus' name, amen.