

7.) How might being honest about ourselves – even when it is painful – help us to live a life more wide awake to God’s presence?



**Week of March 19, 2017**

8.) Conversely, how might a resistance to honestly assess ourselves or to consider the feedback or even confrontation of others keep us from experiencing the fullness of the Spirit-Led life?

## **Burden-Bearing 101 (Gal. 6:1-5)**

9.) Does carrying one another’s burdens mean solving one another’s problems? Why or why not? If not, what does it look like to truly carry another’s burdens when it comes to the matter of restoring a sinning brother or sister?

### **I. 3 Assumptions About Burden-Bearing:**

- a. We all have \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. God does not intend for us to \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Burden-Bearing is \_\_\_\_\_.

10.) Whether we are talking about restoration or some other form of burden-bearing, which do you think is more difficult: helping to bear someone else’s burdens or allowing others to help you bear yours? Why?

### **II. An Example of Burden-Bearing**

- a. What to do: \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Who does it: those \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. How it is to be done: in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Getting Real...**

11.) What do you think are the main obstacles to a deeper sense of authentic community at our church?

### **III. The Practical Reality of Burden Bearing**

- a. It is to be \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. It is to be \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Burden Bearing is very \_\_\_\_\_ because it’s very \_\_\_\_\_.

12.) How might you personally pursue that community?

## Questions for Discussion...

### Getting to know you...

- 1.) Do you think most people in our culture live authentic lives? Why or why not? What evidence do you see around you supports your answer?

### Reflecting on the Sermon...

- 2.) “Authenticity” is one of those words that seems to have become a church culture buzz word. Yet while authenticity seems to be on everyone’s lips, it also seems to be the experience of few within the church. What do you think are the biggest challenges for an authentic life and authentic community among Christians? What prevents us from being “real” and really “connected” with one another?

## Into the Word...

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-9 and consider the following questions. (Note: if you would like to read the background to this passage, it can be found in the previous chapter – 2 Sam. 11).

- 3.) Have you ever felt like David? Have you ever had a moment when you were confronted with difficult truth about yourself and you had to face it? If you are willing to share, what were the circumstances?
- 4.) Was this moment prompted by self-examination and conviction? Or by the “faithful wounds of a friend?” (Prov. 27:6)
- 5.) Why do you think God brings us to points like that?
- 6.) Whether your moment of confrontation was self-confrontation or loving (or not!) confrontation by someone else, what was the result for you?