



## WEEK FOUR | THE SINS OF THE CHURCH

I told you last week that we are starting our group gatherings a little differently for the next 1-2 weeks depending on the size of your group and how often you meet. Our faith stories are crucial to who we are and who we are becoming. Deconstructing our faith happens to most everyone at some point. We will find common themes and experiences as we listen. We are going to continue to share some stories. Ask 2-3 people to volunteer for this week and save the rest of your time discussing the sermon topic.

### GETTING STARTED

Church hurt is a painful topic for many and an embarrassing one for others. If we have learned anything at all about human nature, we can love greatly and we can hurt profoundly. Proceed patiently and lovingly. A soul is a fragile thing. I believe we are and can be the source of healing and love that Jesus made us to be.

**What is conformity? What is spiritual conformity?**

**What are some examples of good spiritual conformity and bad spiritual conformity?**

### TALK ABOUT IT

**What do you think is behind the need or want to put unwarranted faith in a person (pastor, leader, etc.) or thing (scripture, denomination, etc.) instead of Jesus?**

**Read 1 Corinthians 2:2-5**

**Why isn't Jesus enough for some?**

**How has our penchant for proclaiming allegiance to a person or group, whether in politics or religion, blinded us to who or what is the *real* Savior?**

## **APPLY IT**

**Read John 21:15-19**

**How does this act of love by Jesus to Peter inspire and challenge you to take repentance, forgiveness, and grace more seriously in your life (toward yourself and others)?**

There is a lot of church hurt in our community. We hear stories almost daily.

**What gives you hope that we can change and be the loving body that God has called us to be?**

## **PRAY**

Nothing will make you feel more like a community than this time. Share your joys, your burdens, your victories, your fears. This is the place to do it.