

# GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

## CONNECT

- Has anyone ever said something about you that is not true?
- How did that experience impact you?

## LEARN & APPLY

Read Exodus 20:16, and Proverbs 24:28-29

- Why would people be tempted to do this?

Read Leviticus 19:11-18

- How many of these verses connect with this commandment?
- In what ways?

Martin Luther's explanation of this commandment in the Small Catechism says: *We are to fear and love God so that we do not betray, slander or lie about our neighbor, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain his actions in the kindest way.*

- What makes this challenging?
- What do we need from God for us to do this cheerfully for each other?

Jesus experienced being slandered (Matthew 11:19) and told us that we would be too (Matthew 5:11-12). Slander is one symptom of a sickness of heart (Matthew 15:18-20).

- So how then, are we to respond?

Read Ephesians 4:25-32

- What kind of community does this passage envision?
- What does this tell us about the powerful role of Jesus' grace?

## PRAY

Lord, help us to be so firmly anchored in the truth of who we are in you, that we can not only forgive those who hurt us in this way, but model a better way of engaging, through your grace. Live your love in us. Amen.