

# Koinonia

## Week Two: Authentic Relationships



We all love things that are real. We inspect labels on items ranging from food packages to wood products just to see if the product is what it says it is.

When it comes to our relationships, it's a lot harder to live out being authentic with one another than it is to check if food is made from real ingredients. However, when we are willing to humbly embrace authenticity, we can become the kind of community that encourages and helps one another grow through life's ups and downs. When we are authentic in our relationships, the Church shines like a beacon of light for the message of grace and redemption that we've found in Christ.

## Introspect

- When you hear the word authentic, what does that word mean to you?
- Would you say you're a person who is authentic? Why or why not? Are there areas in your life that you prefer to cover up? Share with the group.
- Christians don't have the greatest reputation of being authentic. Why do you think that is?

## Investigate

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“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

- 1 John 1:7 (ESV)

### Read 1 John 1:5-7

- What makes stepping into the light possible?
- Now that we've talked about stepping into the light, what does it mean to *walk* in the light?
- How does living in community with one another help us walk in the light?

## Read John 8:12 and 8:31-32

- What message is Jesus trying to communicate to the Pharisees?
- How does being honest about our issues ultimately bring healing into our relationships?

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“...and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”  
- John 8:32 (ESV)

## Incorporate

- Think about how your relationship with God affects your relationships with other people. Would you say you are authentic in your relationship with God? Why or why not?
- How do you receive and respond to authenticity? In what ways might it make you uncomfortable?
- What fears do you have that might be keeping you from being open and honest with your Life Group about issues you are facing in your life? How can you overcome those fears?
- What's your next step towards authenticity? How has being real brought healing and growth into your life?

## Investment

### The Cove's Core Values

We love God passionately.  
We love people unconditionally.  
We take the Bible seriously.  
We stay united.  
We are generous.  
We keep it real.

### The Cove's Discipleship Strategy

Attend a weekly service.  
Practice a regular quiet time with God.  
Participate in a Cove Life Group.  
Serve on a Cove Ministry Team.

