

## TLC HOME GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE – WEEK OF 2-11-24

### SIN PART 5

#### FRUIT VS ROOT CONTINUED

##### ***SHARK ILLUSTRATION***

Imagine you're on the beach looking out at the ocean and you see a triangular fin swimming along in the ocean. You probably don't want to go in the water at this point, but it's not because you're afraid of the fin. You're afraid of what's attached to the fin—a shark that has great potential to do a lot of harm!

This illustration shows us how our sinful nature relates to our outer actions, much like all that can be seen of the shark from the surface is the dorsal fin. We strive to keep our external actions nice and tidy, but the problem is that those outward actions are attached to our sinful “shark-hearts.”

As we discussed, you can't control your outer behaviors without dealing with the real problem of your sinful heart. Just like we couldn't control the fin of the shark without dealing with its huge body and sharp teeth.

Jesus came not just to redirect the fin, but to *kill the shark*. He kills our shark-hearts and gives us new hearts: His.

Consider these examples from Scripture:

- Luke 6:45 and Proverbs 4:23—out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks.
- Matthew 23:27—whitewashed tombs; outside clean, inside isn't.
- Matthew 19:16-30/Mark 10:17-31/Luke 18:18-30—Rich ruler; Jesus sees that more is going on inside than on the surface.
- Jeremiah 17:9—Our hearts are deceptive.

**FOR DISCUSSION: XRAY QUESTIONS.** The following questions are meant to be used as a guide to help you think about what is going on *internally* in your sinful heart that causes you to sinfully react *externally*. The groups of questions are meant to be a guide and you might not have answers to each and every question, which is ok.

**Don't run down the questions as a group, instead, make some time for group members to reflect on all four questions to themselves, and then ask people to share their situation and their answers to the questions.**

1. Think about a situation where you reacted sinfully. What happened?
2. How does your sin (such as anger, discontentment, grumbling, critical spirit, etc.) show up—what are you saying to yourself? What are your feelings and thoughts? What was your external response?
3. **NOW REALLY THINK ABOUT THE FOLLOWING:** What exactly did you want in that situation? What are the expectations you brought with you? What are you actually believing during the moment of your sin (such as anger, discontentment, grumbling, critical spirit, etc.)? What did you think you desired and how did it motivate you? Ask God to give you clarity to notice and name what beliefs and motives took over control of your heart.
4. What might you do next? **EXAMPLES:** Excuse? Rationalization? Apology? Reconciliation? Repentance? Prayer?

**NOTE: WE WILL USE THIS SAME GUIDE FOR NEXT WEEK AS WELL!!**

This is important for us to think about/reflect on and pray about. Therefore, we will continue with these same questions and discussion next week so people can spend time on it outside of just group time. Together, we want to practice being open and transparent about our struggles, and bring them to the Lord!