

We Need To Reproof, Rebuke, and Exhort

Small Group Discussion Guide

"We Need To Reprove, Rebuke, and Exhort"

BASED ON THE TEACHING OF PASTOR MIREK HUFTON

1. SERMON RECAP

In this message, I challenged us to recognize that healthy spiritual growth requires all three elements Paul describes -- reproofing, rebuking, and exhorting -- not just the encouraging parts we tend to prefer. I pointed out that when we only preach what feels good, we end up with what I called "sloppy agape" and "greasy grace," leaving people without the solid foundation they need to stand firm. The Word of God is a two-edged sword of both mercy and judgment, and we need both edges working in our lives if we're going to contend for the faith in the world we're living in right now.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 4:2-4 (NKJV)

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."

3. ICE BREAKER

Think back to a coach, teacher, parent, or mentor who gave you a correction you really didn't want to hear at the time -- but later realized was exactly what you needed. What made that correction stick with you?

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Getting Honest About Our Preferences

I described a tendency in today's church to lean heavily toward exhortation and encouragement while avoiding correction and rebuke. Do you think that's a fair observation? Why do you think we naturally gravitate toward the encouraging side of teaching? What do we risk losing when that balance tips too far in

one direction?

2. The Two-Edged Sword

I used the image of a two-edged sword -- one edge mercy, one edge judgment -- to describe how the Word of God works. How have you personally experienced both edges in your own walk with God? Can you think of a time when the "mercy edge" carried you, and a time when the "judgment edge" corrected your course?

3. Itching Ears in Real Life

Second Timothy 4:3 warns that people will "heap up for themselves teachers" who tell them what they want to hear. That's not just a problem "out there" -- it can creep into any of our lives. What are some practical ways we might drift toward seeking only comfortable teaching, even without realizing it? What safeguards can we put in place personally?

4. Contending for the Faith

Jude 3 urges us to "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." What does contending for the faith actually look like in your everyday life -- at work, in your neighborhood, in your family, on social media? Where do you find it hardest to hold the line, and where do you feel most confident?

5. Truth in a Culture That Rejects It

I talked about how our culture has largely shifted from objective truth to a standard of respect, where disagreeing with someone's belief is labeled intolerance or hate. How do you personally navigate loving people genuinely and wholeheartedly while still standing firmly on what the Word of God says? Where does that tension feel most real to you right now?

6. Getting the Word *In* Us

I kept coming back to this idea that the Word of God has to get inside us -- in our hearts, not just our heads -- so that when false teaching or cultural pressure hits, something in us rises up and says, "I know what the Word says." What does your current personal engagement with Scripture honestly look like? What's one honest step you could take to go deeper?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, identify one specific area of your life where you've been avoiding a correction you already sense the Holy Spirit -- or the Word -- has been pointing at. It might be a habit, a relationship dynamic, a media diet, a financial decision, or an attitude. Write it down, bring it to God in prayer each morning this week, and find one person you trust -- a friend, a spouse, someone in this group -- to share it with and ask them to pray with you about it. Correction only works when we stop running from it and let it land.

6. PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for boldness and balance -- that our church, our leaders, and each of us personally would have the courage to speak the full Word of God with both mercy and truth, neither watering it down nor wielding it

harshly.

- Pray for our young people -- specifically those in universities, high schools, and environments where the pressure to compromise Biblical truth is intense and relentless every single day. Ask God to send a fresh fire that draws them toward Him rather than away.

- Pray for discernment -- that each person in this group would develop a growing sensitivity to distinguish sound doctrine from the "cunningly devised fables" Peter warns about, and that the Word would become so alive in us that error simply cannot take root.

7. MEMORY VERSE

2 Timothy 4:2 (NKJV)

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."

Leader's Note: Give everyone grace to be honest this week. These are not easy topics, and some in your group may be in the middle of exactly the kind of struggle this message addresses. Keep the conversation anchored in love -- but don't be afraid to let the Word land where it needs to.