

PEER GROUP MEETUP

LET'S CHECK IN

**Please share briefly anything significant
that comes to mind since we last met up.
(2-3 minutes each)**

Opening Prayer:

Kontakion of Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

When thou didst cast away the publican's balance and wast united to the yoke of uprightness, then didst thou prove a merchant of great excellence, one that gathered in the wealth of the wisdom of Heaven; for this cause, the word of truth thou didst herald, O Matthew, and didst arouse the souls of sluggish men by signifying the dread day of reckoning.

**How do we define gossip, why is it
such a temptation and where does
"talking" cross the line into "gossip"?**

(Webster's defines it as "rumor or report of an intimate nature." In the book *The 15 Commitments of Conscious Leadership*, the authors define gossip as: "any statement about another that the speaker would be unwilling to share in exactly the same way if that person were in the same room.; we like to be "in the know" about someone else's problems/issues/weaknesses

St John Climacus on "talkativeness":

"Talkativeness" is the throne of vainglory on which it loves to preen itself and show off. Talkativeness is a sign of ignorance, a doorway to slander, a leader of jesting, a servant of lies, the ruin of compunction, a summoner of despondency, a messenger of sleep, a dissipation of recollection, the end of vigilance, the cooling of zeal, the darkening of prayer.

Intelligent silence is the mother of prayer, freedom from bondage, custodian of zeal, a guard on our thoughts . . . a friend of tears, a sure recollection of death ... a companion of stillness, the opponent of dogmatism, a growth of knowledge, a hand to shape contemplation, hidden progress, the secret journey upward."

What does scripture say about "gossip"? This is from the point of our having gossiped?

The one whose walk is blameless,
who does what is righteous,
who speaks the truth from their heart;
whose tongue utters no slander,
who does no wrong to a neighbor,
and casts no slur on others.

Psalms 15:2-3

A gossip betrays a confidence,
but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.

Proverbs 11:13

What does scripture say about gossip which strengthens us when we know we have been the object of gossip?:

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Matthew 5:11

How can being the object of gossip affect a marriage both negatively as well as positively?

What are some methods you have used to avert someone from gossiping to you?

What are some of the risks and benefits of "praying for one another in community"?

before you speak

THINK



T

~ is it true?

H

~ is it helpful?

I

~ is it inspiring?

N

~ is it necessary?

K

~ is it kind?