

TRUTH / PRAYER / RESTORATION

SPARKS

An Accountability Model



Speak truth. Welcome correction.
Stay through the sparks.

ROOTED IN PROVERBS 27:17

DIRT ROAD GOSPEL MUSIC

www.DirtRoadGospelMusic.com

Helping each other follow Jesus

Accountability is a relationship in which we invite honest questions, speak truth with love, and help one another take concrete steps of obedience to God.

SPARKS gives that relationship six shared commitments. Each person practices every commitment; both people need sharpening.

S**Speak truth in love****P****Pray for each other****A****Ask honest questions****R****Receive correction humbly****K****Keep your commitments****S****Stay through the sparks**

Begin with a willing partner or a small group. Agree on regular meetings, honest conversation, and a specific follow-up time.

Faithful friendship shapes us

TRUTH WITH LOVE

Proverbs 27:5-6; Ephesians 4:15

A faithful friend brings needed correction. Speaking truth in love helps us grow toward maturity in Christ.

SINCERE COUNSEL

Proverbs 27:9, 17

Heartfelt counsel enriches friendship. As iron sharpens iron, people can help one another grow.

GENTLE RESTORATION

Galatians 6:1-2

Restore a person gently, watch your own vulnerability to temptation, and help carry one another's burdens.

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

James 5:16

Bring struggles into honest fellowship and pray for one another.

Read these passages in your Bible before beginning. The descriptions above summarize their message; they are not direct Scripture quotations.

A NECESSARY DISTINCTION

The sparks picture the discomfort honest correction may produce. Pain alone does not prove correction is faithful. Look for truth, love, humility, and a desire to restore.

Speak truth in love

READ: Ephesians 4:15; Proverbs 27:5-6

Love gives us a reason to speak when silence would leave a friend drifting. Describe the behavior you have observed, explain your concern, and leave room to hear their perspective.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Use Scripture in context. Distinguish a biblical command from your own preference. Speak privately and specifically, with a desire to help the person follow Jesus.

WORDS YOU CAN USE

“When you spoke to your family that way, I was concerned. Can we talk about what happened?”

REFLECT HONESTLY

Where am I withholding needed truth because I fear an uncomfortable conversation?

ONE NEXT STEP

Name one concern with care. Ask permission to discuss it, then listen.

Pray for each other

READ: James 5:16; Galatians 6:2

Prayer brings our need for change before God. We need His help to see clearly, confess honestly, and obey faithfully. Pray with your friend about the actual struggle they have shared.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Ask what they need prayer for. Thank God for evidence of growth. Pray for wisdom, courage, repentance, and strength. Keep praying between meetings.

WORDS YOU CAN USE

“Lord, help us see what is true, own our sin, and take the next step of obedience. Give us grace to help each other.”

REFLECT HONESTLY

What struggle have I discussed with others but have not honestly brought before God?

ONE NEXT STEP

Choose one specific prayer request and pray for your partner during the week.

Ask honest questions

READ: Proverbs 27:9; James 1:19

Good questions make room for truth. Listen carefully before interpreting motives. Invite your friend to describe what happened, what they wanted, and where they need help.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Ask open questions and allow an unhurried answer. Follow up gently when an answer stays vague. Share your own struggles so honesty is mutual.

WORDS YOU CAN USE

“What happened? What were you hoping to get? Is there anything you are leaving out because it is hard to say?”

REFLECT HONESTLY

Where do I tend to give a polished answer instead of an honest one?

ONE NEXT STEP

Ask one question that reaches beneath the surface, and listen without interrupting.

Receive correction humbly

READ: Proverbs 12:1; Galatians 6:1

Receiving correction requires humility. Give yourself time to hear the concern before defending your intentions. Ask God to help you recognize what is true and respond with obedience.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Restate what you heard. Ask for specific examples. Test the concern against Scripture. Own what is true, and discuss any disagreement respectfully.

WORDS YOU CAN USE

“Thank you for telling me. Help me understand what you saw. I need to consider this honestly.”

REFLECT HONESTLY

What happens inside me when someone challenges my behavior?

ONE NEXT STEP

Identify one correction you need to consider. Name the response it calls for.

Keep your commitments

READ: James 1:22; Matthew 5:37

A useful conversation leads to action. Choose a clear step you can take, make room for it in your life, and agree on when you will report back. Depend on God as you follow through.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Be specific about the action and timing. Include needed support. If you fail, tell the truth, address what happened, and take the next faithful step.

WORDS YOU CAN USE

“Before our next meeting, I will apologize to my spouse for what I said. Please ask me about it on Friday.”

REFLECT HONESTLY

What have I repeatedly agreed to change without taking a concrete step?

ONE NEXT STEP

Write one commitment with a deadline and a follow-up date.

Stay through the sparks

READ: Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 10:24-25

A difficult conversation needs faithful care afterward. Check in, recognize growth, and continue praying. When someone falls, help them return to honesty and obedience.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Follow up after correction. Encourage specific progress. Keep appropriate boundaries and seek wise help when the situation requires more than a friend can provide.

WORDS YOU CAN USE

“I meant what I said, and I care about you. How have things been since we talked? What help do you need now?”

REFLECT HONESTLY

Do I withdraw when someone challenges me, or when their progress is slow?

ONE NEXT STEP

Schedule the next conversation before this one ends.

A REPEATABLE CONVERSATION

Your SPARKS meeting

Allow about 30-40 minutes for two people. Give each person time to share. Start with prayer and end with a clear next step.

1 / LOOK BACK

What did I commit to last time? What happened? Where have I seen God helping me grow?

2 / TELL THE TRUTH

Where have I obeyed God, and where have I resisted Him? What am I tempted to hide or explain away?

3 / INVITE SHARPENING

What do you see that I may be missing? What does Scripture call me to do?

4 / AGREE AND PRAY

What will I do before we meet again? How can you help me? Pray together about what was shared.

MY COMMITMENT

I will follow through by: _____

We will check in on: _____

Make room for honest friendship

We will speak truth, welcome correction, pray for change, and stay through the sparks.

- We will use Scripture as our shared standard and admit when a concern reflects personal preference.
- We will practice mutual accountability. Each of us may ask questions, receive correction, and seek help.
- We will speak with gentleness, listen carefully, and aim for restoration.
- We will protect what is shared. We will explain the limits of confidentiality: danger, abuse, or serious harm calls for appropriate help.
- We will make specific commitments and follow up honestly, including when we fail.
- We will respect boundaries and welcome wise pastoral or professional help when needed.

Names: _____

Date: _____

Meeting rhythm: _____

Next meeting: _____

Stay through the sparks

This model grew from “Sparks,” a Dirt Road Gospel Music song developed around Proverbs 27:5-6, 9, and 17. Its message joins honest correction with faithful friendship.

SELECTED RECOVERED LYRIC EXCERPTS

“You never told me what I wanted to hear...”

“If that's what love makes / Put an edge back on us...”

“Strike the iron / And stay through the sparks.”

These excerpts are from the earlier song discussion, not a reproduction of the complete lyric.

A CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, make us faithful friends. Give us courage to speak, humility to listen, and strength to obey. Help us carry each other's burdens and keep growing toward Christ. Amen.

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