

HOME GROUP

Leader Guide



 OneLife
CHURCH



As you start your group time, please be sure to discuss the following important topics listed below. This is key to keeping OneLifers informed.

5-Year Service

Mark your calendars now! September 14th at 10:30am our entire church is coming together for one giant service on UT's campus in the Cox Auditorium inside Alumni Memorial Building, located, literally, in the shadow of Neyland Stadium. That's not all; there will be food and plenty of fun for the whole family in nearby Circle Park directly after the service. More details coming soon! In the mean time, think about who you're planning to invite to come with you!

Test Drive

Ready to become a OneLife Volunteer? Sign up for Test Drive, a volunteer interest meeting, on September 7th. For more information and to sign up, mark the "volunteer" box on your connection card!

Heiskell Community Center

Heiskell Community Center, just north of Powell, could use some volunteers to help save their walking trail – specifically, they have asked us to help maintain a wooden foot bridge along the trail that needs to be cleaned, stained and sealed. If people from your home group are available to meet this need, contact Dylan Martin at dylan@onelifeknox.com

KEY SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK:

John 8:7-12 (NIV) ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.” ¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Mark 1:15-17 (NIV) ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” ¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM HANDOUT (35 Minutes)

1. What is something that revolutionized your life (your first smart phone, becoming a parent, getting married, an experience or place)?

Here is the icebreaker. This one can be pretty superficial, remember it's an example. Leaders, this is a great question to poke a little bit at yourself. Spend a few minutes thinking of a good story to share to help your group settle in and feel more comfortable.

Look for ways to get them to see how they have experienced a “platform shift;” that is, a new way of thinking about something. (i.e. “I thought about things in this way, then this happened, and now I see it from a totally different light.”) This will get the brain juices flowing toward seeing the shift that must take place for us to experience true repentance later.

2. Read John 8:7-12. How does Jesus deal with this woman’s sin differently than you might expect? If this response to a sin came from a pastor in present day, would you be surprised? Why or why not?

This is where we start to see that Jesus’ response to sin is a different category of thinking than our own. He doesn’t just deal with her behavior; he deals with her heart (i.e. her desires, how she thinks about herself, how she sees others, her mission in life, etc). Help steer the conversation in such a way that we can see the difference between modifying our behavior to mimic how we think a Christian

should act and encountering God in a real and authentic way that allows His spirit change us.

This verse helps us see that:

- Repentance isn't just better behavior on our part (this puts the burden to change on our shoulders)
- True repentance is turning *away* from your sin and *toward* Jesus, whose spirit changes us (platform shift).

3. Jesus is the light of the world, and His light shines into the darkness in our lives. When we walk outside from a dark room (movie theatre, interior room) into the daylight, it can be uncomfortable at first. Spiritually speaking, what similar experience have you had? What was your response to the light? Did you feel that you wanted to retreat? Why or why not?

In this question, we want to drive home the idea that allowing God's light to shine into the darkest parts of your lives is what leads to true repentance and true life change.

- Jesus' light exposes the darkness, allowing us to see how to repent (what direction we're going, and what direction we need to go).
- Without His light in our lives, we often cannot even see what obstacles are in our way (our sin), and won't know how to truly repent.
- When a light shines in our eyes, it's uncomfortable and we tend to want to withdraw from the light. But, after our eyes adjust to lots of light, we can see more clearly.

4. Remember the "OCD" cycle. What is the difference between false repentance and true repentance? How have you experienced either of these in your life? Going forward, what steps can you take to live a life of genuine repentance?

False Repentance = Observe → Consider → Discuss.

True Repentance = Open (to God) → Continue (to repent) → (make) Disciples.

Get people thinking about how they can genuinely repent, which simply means changing their direction toward Jesus.

- Be transparent about your life, don't sweep things under the rug.
- Confession – to God and others something that is a struggle
- Reading the bible – even if it's just a few verses each day.
- Asking someone for godly counsel rather than doing it all on their own.
- Seeking an answer from the Bible instead of just doing it.

END YOUR TIME PRAYING TOGETHER (10 Minutes)