

HOME GROUP

Leader Guide



**AM I REALLY SAVED?
AUGUST 31, 2014**



SHARE THE VISION (<10 minutes)

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 your home group is available to meet this need, contact Dylan Martin at dylan@onelifeknox.com

Student Ministry

If you have a 6th-12th grade student, make sure they don't miss the upcoming OneLife Student Rally on Sunday, September 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the Powell Campus. We're ending the summer by firing up the grill and cooking hamburgers, games and a time of worship led by our own students! For more information, email dylan@onelifeknox.com.

KEY SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK:

Romans 9:1-3 (NLT) With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it. ² My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief ³ for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them.

Romans 10:1-4 (NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved. ² I know what enthusiasm they have for God, but it is misdirected zeal. ³ For they don't understand God's way of making people right with himself. Refusing to accept God's way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God by trying to keep the law. ⁴ For Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given. As a result, all who believe in him are made right with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM HANDOUT (35 Minutes)

Jog Your Memory:

- What you think about seeps out through what you talk about
- Misdirected zeal (enthusiasm) causes us to think that something other than Jesus saves us.
- So, what are you excited about spiritually? Are you talking to others about Jesus changing your life?
- Who are your people? The people in your sphere of influence? With whom are you sharing your story?

1. Have you ever known someone who just couldn't stop talking about something? What did they talk about? Why do you think they always spoke about it? What about you, have you ever been this person?

We've all experienced what it's like to know someone (or to be that person) who won't stop talking about something. So, this should be a fun way to open your group and break the ice. Be willing to use yourself as an example to get the conversation started.

As you could guess, this question will build toward the idea that you can tell what is important to a person by what they talk about. Some examples might be:

- Tennessee football game/team
- A new device/computer/phone
- A hot-button topic/issue in the news

- The Ice-Bucket challenge ☺
- Your kids or grandkids
- Their job, hobby, or something they know a lot about.
- Their favorite peer-marketing company ☺

2. Read Romans 10:1-4. With “misdirected zeal” in mind, have you or someone you know experienced enthusiasm for the wrong things spiritually? How did this affect that person? How did you (or will you) attempt to redirect that zeal back to Jesus?

This question addresses “cultural Christianity,” which is when someone is focused more on behaving like a Christian than experiencing Jesus. The goal for this discussion is to help people identify where their excitement is misplaced on the church, a sermon, a pastor, certain behaviors or a specific life-changing event and ways to redirect it back onto Jesus.

Some suggested ways to redirect zeal:

- Think about your own life-change story. Do you know it well?
- Ask yourself “where is God in this” or “what is God up to here” when you get excited about church or sermons.
- Spend more time getting to know other people’s spiritual story, not just their church background.

3. Read Romans 9:1-3. Have you or someone you know ever lost something significant? How does the agony over this loss compare to the kind of agony Paul was experiencing?

This question can be aimed at helping people determine where they are. If there isn’t an agony or heart that is broken for lost people, what does that mean about where they are spiritually?

4. Did the loss from the previous question drive you to do something about it? What would you be willing to give up (sacrifice) so that others could experience this too?

Some possible examples to help you get started:

- Someone who has experienced cancer becomes passionate about cancer research
- Someone who has been affected by drunk driving joining MADD.
- People who advocate for new legislation due to a crime or loss. They give up their time and often their savings to lobby for new laws that protect others against similar circumstances.

To help move things toward application:

- Are you burdened for other people's spiritual well being?
- Is there a specific person in your life that you're praying meets Jesus?
- Has misdirected zeal distracted you from your burden for others to know Jesus? How so?

5. Who are "your people"? What can you do this week to intentionally spend time with them and seek opportunity to share Jesus with them?

Some suggestions:

- Take more of an interest in others, asking questions about their life.
- Trade in some of your facebook time for face-to-face conversations when people are present.
- Spend more time on the front porch or working in the yard, strike up a conversation with your neighbors.

Exercise: determining oikos (circles of influence)

Print enough of these for each person in the group or pass this around as an example of how to do this on your own paper.

(SEE ATTACHMENT)

END YOUR TIME PRAYING TOGETHER (10 Minutes)

Oikos Diagram: list the natural circles of influence around you right now.

Some common examples may be family, class-mates, church friends, other parents on your kid's ball team, etc.

BONUS: Draw the top three relationships you have in each circle of influence that you listed below

