

HOME GROUP

Leader Guide



**5 LIES OF THE DEVIL
SEPTEMBER 21, 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.

OneLife's Newest Live Worship Recording

Don't miss your chance to pre-order OneLife's newest worship album "Waking the Giant Live" that was recorded just last week. The pre-order price is \$10, and the CDs will be here in early December. At that time they are \$12 so order yours today in the Green Room or at onelifeknox.com/cd.

Family Football Day

The University of Tennessee has given us a chance to attend a football game together as a church! The game versus UT-Chattanooga is on October 11 and will cost OneLifers only \$21 per ticket! We will also have a free tailgate on campus that day before the game. Buy your tickets today in the Green Room or at onelifeknox.com/football.

KEY SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK:

John 8:42-47 (NLT) ⁴² Jesus told them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. ⁴³ Why can’t you understand what I am saying? It’s because you can’t even hear me! ⁴⁴ For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ So when I tell the truth, you just naturally don’t believe me! ⁴⁶ Which of you can truthfully accuse me of sin? And since I am telling you the truth, why don’t you believe me? ⁴⁷ Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don’t listen because you don’t belong to God.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM HANDOUT (35 Minutes)

Jog Your Memory:

- The Lie: It’s no big deal!
- If God is truly your father, you would love him (which means literally to “prefer” Him and prefer what He prefers); similar to how we naturally adopt the preferences of our parents.
- Our behavior doesn’t determine who our father is; we have to change our father first and then our behavior will naturally begin to change.

1. Talk about a time when you or someone you know thought something was going to be “no big deal.” Did it turn out to be a big deal? Why or why not?

This is an easy way to kick start some conversation to break the ice. Be ready to give the first example if no one else speaks up right away.

Some examples of this might be:

- Husbands drinking out of the milk carton
- Being invited to a party/wedding/reception, and deciding not to go
- Being late to work or for a curfew when you were younger
- Borrowing something without asking

2. It’s natural for us to adopt the “preferences” of our parents. In the same way spiritually, if God is our Father, we’ll choose to adopt his preferences for our lives. Is it easy or difficult to live according to God’s preferences? Why or why not? What Bible verses come to mind that help you know when you are displaying that God is your father?

This question to lead us toward the idea that if God is our Father, then we'll naturally choose his preferences for our lives, and our behavior will reflect this.

For example, is it easy or difficult for most Christians to:

- Be transparent and honest – especially when it seems like “no big deal.”
- Tithe and follow Godly personal finance principles. Excessive debt could be a discussion topic
- Withholding revenge and trusting God with those who hurt us.
- Living on a mission to share what God is doing in your life and looking for others who don't know Him yet.

Some other verses to consider that help us know that we are displaying God as our father (if no one has suggested others, have the group read these and discuss how they help us self-identify if we are letting God be our Father):

- John 13:35
- Galatians 5:22-23
- Psalm 38:18
- Romans 10:14

3. Read John 8:44. It says that the devil is the father of lies! How have you believed lies from the devil in the past? How did you handle this? How did you realize the truth?

This is an excellent opportunity for people in the group to begin to share their story, but people might be reluctant to share at first. Spend a few minutes thinking through areas of your life where you've believed a lie, and how you realized the truth from God so you can share first.

Asking some followup questions will help keep the discussion moving:

- How did believing this lie affect your family/friends/career?
- What led to you discovering the truth? A sermon? A spiritual conversation with someone? Scripture that you read?

4. Sometimes its easy for you to spot the lies that other people believe, even before they see it. What's the best way to help a friend see the truth? What if they are not a Christian, does that change your approach? How did Jesus help people see the truth?

Avoid letting the discussion become about ways to “fix” other people. At the end of the day, we can't make people see the truth. Preaching sermonettes to them will not do it! BUT, we can do certain things that will help others see the truth in us.

As much as possible, suggest things like:

- Share similar/relevant experiences where God moved in your life
- When giving advice, spend more time asking questions than supplying answers or trying to convince them to see the truth.
- Pray and ask God to reveal truth to you and those around you.

Look at this story and see how Jesus did it. What did he do in verses 43 and 46 of John 8? Why did Jesus seem to choose this method often? Get you and your group to understand that sometimes questions are our best tool! The Holy Spirit can use them to stir a person to consider what God wants! Jesus was a master at this!

What was Jesus' other major tool throughout the New Testament? Parables! Short stories that pointed to a spiritual truth. We all have a story. Sometimes the best way to help someone who can't see truth is to ask questions and share our own stories! Talk about how this has helped others see truth or even group members see truth.

END YOUR TIME PRAYING TOGETHER (10 Minutes)