

HOME GROUP

Leader Guide



**TOO BUSY NOT TO...
JANUARY 11, 2015
BUSYBODIES**



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.

Home Groups Begin Soon

OneLife's Home Groups will be kicking off a new semester of meetings at the end of January! If you've been wanting to get connected to a home group, now is the perfect opportunity. Simply mark "Home Groups" on the connection card on your seat or visit The Green Room in the lobby to get started!

Test Drive

Ready to become a OneLife Volunteer? Sign up for Test Drive, a volunteer interest meeting, on February 1st. For more information and to sign up, email your campus' connection director or fill out the form at www.onelifeknox.com/volunteer

Already a volunteer? Help others get involved on a volunteer team by shoulder tapping those around you and inviting them to join you as you volunteer. All you need to do is invite them to Test Drive in February.

KEY SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK:

Ephesians 5:15-20 (NLT)

¹⁵ So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷ Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. ¹⁸ Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, ¹⁹ singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. ²⁰ And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14:26

²⁶ But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM HANDOUT (35 Minutes)

Jog Your Memory:

- You're used to hearing "pray harder, read the Bible more, serve more," but the fact is that we're all busy.
- We all react to busyness in different ways. Some recluse, some are frazzled, some people procrastinate, some just become forgetful.
- God can/will use your busyness, you just have to make the most of every opportunity by being controlled by the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is:
 - God (Genesis 1:2)
 - Jesus' presence (John 14:26)
 - My advocate
 - My teacher
 - My power (Acts 1:8)

- 1. What is the busiest season that you've experienced? What was it like? Did the busyness lead to forgetfulness, procrastination, reclusiveness or any other symptoms? How did the busyness affect your closest relationships? How did you handle this? How did it affect your relationship with God?**

Everyone can relate to a busy life and its effects on our life, our relationships and our relationship with God. Since this is a common experience with everyone in the group, use this as an opportunity to break the ice, build trust with the group and get everyone talking.

- 2. Read Ephesians 5:15-20. What does this passage say about how to be careful how you live? Why do you think Paul tells us to make the most of every opportunity? How do we commonly miss opportunities to connect with God? Why? If you were more aware of the Holy Spirit in your day-to-day life, what do you think would change? Why?**

We just finished discussing our busyness. No doubt that a packed calendar can be distracting, but help the group think of other aspects of life that cause us to miss opportunities to connect with God and do what he says.

- Personal drama
- Unhealthy pursuit of productivity
- Financial stress
- Sin
- Etc.

Brainstorm ways that these distractions from God can actually be opportunities to connect with him and trust him? What would it take for that to happen?

- 3. Ephesians 5:15-20 talks about not being controlled by worldly things (“drunk with wine”), but instead being controlled by the Holy Spirit. How do you know what controls a person? What is it like to be controlled by something? Why do people crave to be in control of their own life/destiny? What is the result when the Holy Spirit controls a person (Acts 1:8)?**

One way to assess what controls you is to ask some rather simple questions about yourself. Pose some of these rhetorical questions to the group to help them think through what might be in control:

What do you desire more than anything else?
What do you find yourself daydreaming or fantasizing about?
Is your phone or social media robbing you of time with your family?
Is work competing with your affection for your wife?
Where do your thoughts go when you have alone time?
What fears are paralyzing your heart or distracting you from God?

When the Holy Spirit is in control, God uses your life to reach the world! Try to land the discussion on the idea that when the Holy Spirit is in control of our lives, we won't be able to help but influence other people.

Try to think of how many people would hear about Jesus by the people in your group.

- 4. How has the 60-60 Experiment been going? Has it been easier or harder than expected? As you've taken time to pray throughout the day, what have you noticed about your awareness of the presence of God in your life? How has this experiment caused you to see other people differently? Have you sensed any promptings from God to do things or have a conversation with anyone? Explain.**

The 60-60 Experiment is a challenge to stay connected to the Father by talking with God for at least 60 seconds every hour. Set a reminder on your phone or watch to go off once each hour and when you're reminded, take 60 seconds to tell God what's most on your mind. Make the most of every opportunity throughout the day to connect with God, despite how busy you might be.

END YOUR TIME PRAYING TOGETHER (10 Minutes)