

HOME GROUP

Leader Guide



TOO BUSY NOT TO...
JANUARY 18, 2015
PRAYER REDEFINED



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.

WE BELIVE

We Believe is a unique presentation where parents and kids learn what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The next We Believe presentation is on October 26th after the second service at both campuses. To sign up or for more information, email kids@onelifeknox.com.

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.

SUMMER CAMP – ALREADY?

Summer is still many months away, but it's already time to make plans for your child to attend summer camp. Kids in 3rd grade and above are going to Centri-Kids Camp in Cleveland, TN and middle and high school students are headed to Panama City Beach, FL.

Registration is now open and deposits are due soon. For all the information and to sign up, go to www.onelifeknox.com/camp.

EACH ONE REACH ONE

This year, we're challenging all OneLifers to reach their friends and family – we're calling it "Each one, reach one." If each person invited just one other person to church with them, we'd begin to reach our community for Jesus in a hurry.

In the lobby at each location are brand new plexi-glass panels where you can write the names of those that God has called you to reach. These glass panels serve as a reminder of our goal for each one to reach one.

KEY SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK:

1 Thessalonians 5:16 (NLT)

¹⁷ Never stop praying

John 6:43-45 (NLT)

⁴³ But Jesus replied, “Stop complaining about what I said. ⁴⁴ For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up. ⁴⁵ As it is written in the Scriptures, ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me

John 6:61-63 (NLT)

⁶¹ Jesus was aware that his disciples were complaining, so he said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what will you think if you see the Son of Man ascend to heaven again? ⁶³ The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM HANDOUT (35 Minutes)

Jog Your Memory:

- Many of us are just mimicking prayer, we are saying words out loud or in our minds, but they are not being led by the Holy Spirit
- Pray without ceasing
- You're too busy not to see the Holy Spirit in every opportunity
- The Holy Spirit draws people to himself, it's not a result of human effort

Pray throughout my day...

1. Thanks
2. Light
3. Review
4. Responses
5. Tomorrow

- 1. What is something that you tried to do on your own, but you should have asked for help or had someone with you? Was it moving a heavy object? A DIY project around the house? How did it turn out? Why did you choose to do it alone? How would it have turned out differently with another person around?**

We've all done it. We've all tried to move something heavy, climbed a ladder or drive a long distance by ourselves. This first question is just one to whet everyone's appetite for discussion and share a (hopefully) humorous story about doing trying to do it ourselves. When it comes to our prayer life, and our relationship with the Holy Spirit in general, sometimes we try to do it alone, and that doesn't work. Listen carefully as your group shares, you might be able to relate later points back to some of these examples from the group.

- 2. What are common things that you pray for? Have you ever prayed and it was unanswered? Did you give up on this prayer? 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says to pray without ceasing. What does this mean to you? How is "praying without ceasing" different than what you were taught? If more Christians were to pray without ceasing, how would it change our world? Our community? Our church?**

Religion ruins prayer. For so many of us, religion has reduced our prayer life down to a 30 minute spot in our morning routine - less than that if we're really honest. As this sermon series is showing us, prayer is much more than a reserved time to "talk" to God or a rehearsal of your favorite wrote prayer. It's a constant awareness of the Holy Spirit throughout your busy day.

Help your group begin to discuss and dream what it would be like for us to live out our busy days in tune with the Holy Spirit. What would that look like personally and practically?

Here are some ideas:

- Prayer would look like listening, not just talking.
 - Prayer would result in responding to what God says, not just waiting on God to respond to what you say.
 - Prayer would reflect what's important to God, not just what's important to you.
3. **Read John 6:44 and 6:63. What does it mean to be drawn by the Holy Spirit? Sometimes people try to gain closeness with God by themselves (without the Holy Spirit), why doesn't this work? What are some common ways people try to get close to God on their own? What advice would you give to a person who is busy trying to grow without the Holy Spirit? If the Holy Spirit is the one who draws people to himself, what is our role in reaching others?**

We often stunt our growth spiritually because we attempt to formulate the perfect spiritual recipe of reading, meditation, prayer, singing, conversation, etc. Before we know it, we're trying to "get back to how things were," because we've taken our focus off of the Holy Spirit and we're trying to grow on our own, and the Bible tells us that it doesn't work that way! Real spiritual change takes place when the Holy Spirit draws a person to himself.

Help your group discuss that we can do the busy work of praying, reading, and sharing our faith in vain because we sometimes do that without the Holy Spirit. Think about the example of the Pharisees. They loved to be busy learning, praying and sacrificing; but, it was all for nothing because it was without the Holy Spirit. Help your group discuss and dream about how things are different when the Holy Spirit is prompting and leading all aspects of our lives.

END YOUR TIME PRAYING TOGETHER (10 Minutes)