

HOME GROUP

Leader Guide



**TOO BUSY NOT TO...
FEBRUARY 8, 2015
TOOL TIME**



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.

NIGHT OF WORSHIP – FEB 25

OneLife comes together in one combined Night of Worship on February 25th at 6:30 p.m. at the Powell Campus to celebrate all that the Holy Spirit has done in the hearts of our people during the Too Busy Not To... sermon series. Spread the word, we want a packed house for this Night of Worship!

STUDENT MINSITRY RALLY

It's time for students from both campuses to come together to worship and kick off a brand new small group series for the month of March! If you're in 6th grade through 12th grade, plan on joining together at the Powell Campus on March 1st at 6:00 p.m. *Coming from the Halls Campus?* Don't worry, we'll have a carpool organized on that day to help get you there.

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 (June 8-12) and middle and high school students are headed to Panama City Beach, FL (July 10-13).

Registration is open and you can still sign up for camp. For all the information and to sign up, go to www.onelifeknox.com/camp.

KEY SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK:

Joshua 1:8-9 (NLT)

⁸ Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. ⁹ This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM HANDOUT (35 Minutes)

Jog Your Memory:

- I'm too busy NOT to hear the Holy Spirit through the Bible.
- **Learning** is better than **memorizing**
- **Pondering** is better than **reading**
- **Praying** is better than **thinking**

1. **If you could go to college (again), what would you study? Why? What is your most effective study tactic? Reading? Taking notes? Hands on experience? From your school days, which subject have you used the most in every day life? Why? What subjects do you use the least (probably geometry)?**

Here's a fun and light-hearted opening question just to get the juices flowing about how we "learn" things. It's true, we all learn differently!

If you grew up in church, then you were probably taught that you needed to "learn" more about the Bible in order to know God more. So, you were told to read your bible more and go to more bible studies. This will be a fun way to get into the subject and see that God wants to speak to us through the Bible in ways beyond just reading and memorizing words from a page, but learning, pondering and praying over scripture and letting it fill our hearts!

John 5:39 (NLT) - ³⁹"You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! ⁴⁰ Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

2. **Read Joshua 1:8-9. What does it look like for you to "meditate" on God's word? How would you define the word "continually" from this passage? How is this different than what you were taught growing up? If you were to "fill your mind" with scripture, how would it help you prosper and succeed at all you do?**

As the group leader, you have a *great* opportunity to use this discussion as a way to compare and contrast what it means to meditate on God's words to the religious approach that many of us learned growing up in a church. The religious approach heaps guilt onto a person to read the Bible and try to follow all the rules in it. But, the Holy Spirit wants to use the Bible to fill up your mind and lead you to obey his instruction, so that following the rules is the result of the Holy Spirit's leadership and not merely human willpower.

If the group has traction here, ask them to talk about the difference between John 5:39 and 2 Timothy 3:16 – “¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”

- 3. Read 2 Timothy 3:16. What are the practical uses for scripture found in this verse? How does God use scripture in our lives? If you were to meditate on the Bible well, how would it help you share your faith with others?**

Let the group think about how the Bible helps them share their faith! We've probably all had an experience where someone has given us a good “bible beating” or “Jesus juke,” but ask for examples from the group of a time when someone really encouraged them using the Bible or when they have had an opportunity to genuinely share a verse with a friend.

One of the most natural ways to share our faith with others is to simply share *how* scripture has impacted us. When we spend time getting to know God through reading His words, it transforms us. Then, we have a story to share with others.

- 4. Practice “pondering” scripture using the technique we learned on Sunday. Read the following verses several times, and each time emphasize a different word. Pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is showing you as you emphasize different words. Psalm 54:4; Psalm 34:4; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 Peter 5:7; Romans 15:13.**

If your group would like to try this exercise, have each group member take one of these suggested verses and try it on their own. Encourage them to write it down and underline the words that they are emphasizing each time. Then, ask some follow up questions about their experience:

What did the Holy Spirit show you through this exercise?
What did each emphasized word show you differently about the verse?
What did you learn about yourself?
What did you learn about God?

END YOUR TIME PRAYING TOGETHER (10 Minutes)