

HOME GROUP

Leader Guide



TRAILER HITCH

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MARCH 22, 2015



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.

PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Easter is just right around the corner, which means it's time for OneLife's Photos with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 4 from 10am to 2pm. Every year OneLife partners with the local Chick-fil-a's and sets up a photo booth for kids and families to take pictures. This is a great way to serve our community and engage with the people around us - and we need your help! If you'd like to volunteer taking photos, greeting guests, being an assistant to the Easter Bunny or even being the Easter Bunny, write "Easter Photos" on your Connection Card or visit onelifeknox.com/easterphotos.

NEW ONLINE GIVING PLATFORM

The all new onelifeknox.com launched last week with a new and improved giving platform. Hop on and check it out!

As part of the switch to a new giving platform, all automated gifts that were previously set will expire at the end of March. That means that you'll need to set up your giving on the new giving platform for all gifts in April and beyond. Head on over to the new site and set up your new automated giving now! If you need assistance with this, there will be an Automated Giving station setup in the lobby after the service.

NO STUDENT MINISTRY ON EASTER

Student small groups will take time to be with their family on Easter Sunday, April 5th. Groups will meet again the following Sunday, April 12th. Student small groups meet the first three Sundays of each month at both campuses starting at 6:00 p.m. For more information, email your campus' connection's director. For a directory go to www.onelifeknox.com/staff.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP

OneLife has an amazing partnership with a church network in the Dominican Republic that is seeing disciples multiply disciples and churches multiply churches in an amazing way. Through that partnership we have an opportunity in September to send a team of OneLifers down to the D.R. to help and support those churches. There is an interest meeting on Thursday, April 2 at 6:30pm in the Powell Green Room for anyone interested in going. Write "Mission Trip" on the back of your Connection Card for more information.

KEY SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK:

Philippians 4:10-19 (NLT)

¹⁰ How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. ¹¹ Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. ¹² I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. ¹³ For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. ¹⁴ Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty.

¹⁵ As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. ¹⁶ Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. ¹⁷ I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness.

¹⁸ At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM HANDOUT (35 Minutes)

- 1. In the past, when you've had to move, were you surprised by how many items you had accumulated over time? What was the most surprising thing that you found (maybe even forgotten about)? Do you have any collections (stamps, cards, coins, antiques, music/movies, etc)? If yes, how did the collection start? Why do you keep collecting? When will your collection be complete? Why or why not?**

Have fun thinking of an example from your own life on this one. We are setting up the conversation by talking about our stuff. Everyone can provide examples of how they have accumulated "stuff" over the years.

The questions about collecting are designed to let the conversation drift toward our need for "just one more." You can use these examples later in the conversation to illustrate how our appetite for 'just one more' is never fully or finally satisfied outside of Jesus.

- 2. Read Philippians 4:10-19. What does Paul say is the secret to contentment in every situation? What were Paul's circumstances as he was writing? What gives you the feeling of satisfaction (work, hobby, relationship, etc.)? Can a person's desire for "more" ever be fully and finally satisfied? Why or why not?**

Paul's secret is that his identity is truly wrapped up in the person of Jesus, therefore he doesn't need to excel ahead of everyone else in his performance or have more wealth than everyone else to be satisfied.

The goal of this line of questions is to help the group talk about what gives them the most satisfaction and to discover how our appetite for more plays into that. The obvious conclusion from listening to the sermon will be "Jesus," but as you lead your group, make sure to "keep it real" by acknowledging that Jesus should be the true source of our satisfaction, but for the sake of conversation share other sources of satisfaction in life. We'll narrow down on the shortcomings of all other sources of satisfaction later. Keep this question light hearted and fun.

3. Why was Paul so thankful for the Philippians' gift to him while he was in jail? Read vv. 15-18 again. How did their gift make him proud? How did the Philippians' contentment lead to their generosity? Why do you think we have such a hard time being content? What role does contentment play in our ability to live on mission?

(Answer for why Paul was proud: the Philippians' generosity resulted from being truly content. They had all they needed and were able to be generous with all the rest)

(Answer for what role contentment plays on mission: Discontentment leads to self-centeredness. Think about it, when you're unhappy at work, all you can think/talk about is finding a new job or complaining about the boss. When you are content, you swear by it – whatever it is.)

This question centers on generosity. Help the group discover how true contentment results in selfless generosity. Here are some follow-up questions to look at this from other dimensions:

- Have you ever gotten a big check (tax return, proceeds from sale of car or house, etc) and felt more generous as a result? *All your needs were met, and you wanted to do some good with the rest! Imagine if God met your needs and then led you to be generous with the rest.*
- In 2 Corinthians 9:7-9, the Bible says that God loves a cheerful giver. How does being truly satisfied play into this popular verse?
- Look at Psalm 112. What are the examples of being truly satisfied? Where did this person's confidence come from?

4. Read Philippians 4:12-13. How have you interpreted this popular verse in the past? What is Paul really trying to say about the source of his significance (think back to the sermon)? What are some popular sources of significance for people? What is problematic about significance that comes from any place other than Christ?

(Answer to the problem with significance coming from outside of Jesus: It's only temporary. If your significance comes from your job, and you are laid off or fired, you become insignificant. If it comes from your relationships, you're putting too much pressure on other people to fulfill your significance, and when they disappear, so does your significance. If it comes from your wealth, you're only one car accident or lawsuit away from losing all your significance. Unless it's in Christ, it's temporary; often more temporary than we're willing to admit.)

If your identity, and therefore your significance, is truly Jesus, then you'll be able to do all things and Christ will be the source of your strength through it all. Let the group discover this together and seal the bottom line that true satisfaction has nothing to do with our action! It has everything to do with Jesus action and the new identity that He gave us. End by sharing this verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17.

END YOUR TIME PRAYING TOGETHER (10 Minutes)