

HOME GROUP

Leader Guide



FIGHT CLUB

FIGHT CARD

APRIL 12, 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.

NEW ONLINE GIVING

OneLife has a new online giving platform which is much faster and allows you to log in and make changes or see your giving history! If you had automated giving in the past, make sure you sign up for the new online giving soon that you don't miss a beat! This is a great new way to give back!

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP

If you were unable to make it to the interest meeting for the mission trip to Dominican Republic, please contact dylan@onelifeknox.com for more information and to express your interest.

KEY SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK:

EPHESIANS 6:10-12, 18 (NLT)

¹⁰ A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh- and- blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM HANDOUT (35 Minutes)

Jog Your Memory:

- There is a difference between your enemy and your opponent.
- You should fight FOR your enemy
- You should fight AGAINST your opponent.
- Enemy = someone that is antagonistic to another; one who hates another.
- Opponent: a person that is competing against another in a contest; one that does not want something to exist
- Sometimes, taking a step back from the conflict helps you differentiate between your enemy and your opponent
- When you know who your true opponent is, then I can fight FOR your enemy, instead of fighting AGAINST your enemy.

1. **Talk about a time when you fought the wrong person or a time when you had to “take it all back” because you realized you only knew one side of the story? What did you do when you learned the other side of the story?**

We often fight against the wrong person or thing, and most of the time it's because we don't really know the whole story or aren't sure who is the real “bad guy” in the story. When we slow down, back off and breath for a second, we begin to gain perspective on our situation and gain insight into how to respond appropriately!

Other examples that you can try (in case people are shy or having a hard time coming up with examples) are:

- Share a time when the doctor was treating one thing (headaches) when there was another problem (brain tumor).
- How about car mechanics? They thought it was just a simple oil leak at first, but then later realized that the entire head gasket was blown. How did that perspective change how you were treating the problem? Once you knew the real problem, you changed your plan of attack!
- What about your favorite social issues. Some would say that guns kill people, so we need to attack the guns... Others would say that people kill people, so we need to attack the problem by educating and treating people instead of regulating the guns... (Don't let a social debate start... Quickly divert that attention right back to the principle at hand... “Let's not get into the debate of this particular social issue, remember we're talking about how knowing your true opponent helps you fight FOR your enemy”)

2. **Read Ephesians 6:10-12. Who are we *not* fighting? Who *are* we fighting? What's the difference between an enemy and an opponent? Have you ever known someone who fought *for* you, when they had every right to fight against you? How did their action affect your relationship with them?**

There is a difference between your enemy and your opponent... Your enemy is the person that has hurt you or that you disagree with, but they are not your opponent, because our opponent isn't flesh-and-blood, instead our opponent is Satan. Help the group work with these concepts and discuss how we confuse the two and how it affects our relationships.

For a little deeper discussion, try this exercise:

Each person in the group look up one of these verses and read it to the group and discuss how knowing your true opponent allows you do what's suggested in the verse. How would it be impossible to do what the verse is saying if you were fighting *in* your relationships instead of *for* them?

- Romans 12:17-21
- Philippians 2:3-4
- Proverbs 16:7
- Matthew 5:38-42

3. **There are cycles in every relationship that can be positive or negative cycles. In marriage it is often when he withholds love, she withholds respect. Because respect was withheld, then love is withheld all the more. What do these relationship cycles look like in other contexts? Neighbors, friends, work place, church, etc. What can you do differently that might help reverse a negative cycle?**



These cycles were discussed in the sermon, so feel free to use those as examples... But, try to determine what cycles might be happening with the people in your group. If there are crazy cycles happening in people's work environment, or with the crazy t-ball mom or dad on their kids' t-ball team, or in church world! The point is to discuss how to reverse these cycles.

Pushback on this principle is natural; so try to get some discussion going around reasons why we don't attempt to reverse these cycles, why we don't have success when we do try, and how our attempts are sometimes misguided. Here are a few to get you started:

- Who should make the first move in reversing the cycle, and why? I mean, after all, they started it... Shouldn't they make the first move toward healing (Romans 12:18).

- I'm just too angry right now, the hurt is too fresh, the cycle is too intense; I don't see how this is possible (Ephesians 4:26-27)

- I tried once, but it didn't help. It'll never help (Matthew 28:21-22 *and following*; Galatians 6:9; Ephesians 4:2)

- 4. Read Romans 12:9-21. These verses are all about how to practically live out our faith – specifically how we should operate in relationship with one another. Read this passage several times and meditate on the life that these verses say you are called to live. Do you think that these verses are asking the impossible? What would you do personally to live more peaceably with people? What would happen if everyone at OneLife lived in this way; how would that change our community? Pray for God to show you who you're fighting against that you could be fighting for!**

V. 9-10 – *really love each other*. Think about how many “fake Christians” that you've come across, or maybe you've even been that person who just pretends to love others. If we know who our true opponent is, we can stop *pretending* to live at peace with others, and we can truly fight for our relationships. Sometimes, truly loving someone else means to raise concern in love, sometimes it means to quickly forgive and let go of things. Either way, if we don't know who our true opponent is, we resort to pretending to love to “keep the peace.”

V. 14 – *Bless those who persecute you*. How are you supposed to treat your enemies as if they were your friend? When you realize that they aren't your true opponent, you're free to love everyone, even your enemies... What a radical shift from how we were programmed (to get even, and then some, with those who have taken something from us). But, Jesus was radically different, and confronts the status quo! Check out this passage for more: Luke 23:42-48.

END YOUR TIME PRAYING TOGETHER (10 Minutes)