

HOME GROUP

Leader Guide



FIGHT CLUB

RING GENERAL

APRIL 26, 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.

STUDENT MINISTRY RALLY

It's time for the next rally where 6th-12th graders from both campuses come together for games, live worship and a kick off of a new small group series. It's next Sunday (5/3) at the Halls campus at 6:00 p.m. Email dylan@onelifeknox.com for more information.

FAMILY DEDICATION

Family Dedication at OneLife is about making a commitment to partner together in raising the next generation of Christ followers. If you are a parent, we want to walk alongside you as you raise these Godly men and women. The next family Dedication is May 10th – Mother's Day – at both campuses. Mark "Family Dedication" on your connection card for more information.

KEY SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK:

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31-11:1 (NLT)

³¹ So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ³² Don't give offense to Jews or Gentiles or the church of God. ³³ I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. I don't just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved. ^{11:1} And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.

JAMES 4:1-2 (NLT)

¹ What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? ² You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM HANDOUT (35 Minutes)

Jog Your Memory:

Four G's To Win The Fight:

1. Glorify God
2. Get the log out
3. Gently restore
4. Go and reconcile

1. **Share a funny story of when you or someone you know *really* wanted something, but they didn't get it. Examples could be a present at Christmas time, a promotion at work, a conversation to turn out a certain way. How was it handled? Were they able to mask the disappointing surprise? Looking back, was it as big of a deal as it seemed in the moment?**

Open up the discussion by sharing a funny example from your own life of this question. It helps to get the discussion juices flowing while also introducing the idea that conflict happens as a result of us not getting what we wanted.

2. **The sermon introduced three different responses to conflict - escape, attack, and peacemaking. If you had to plot yourself on this scale, where would you place? What are the pros and cons of each different kind of response? What kinds of things cause us to slip toward either escape or attack responses? What kinds of things bring us back to the peacemaking responses? Which peacemaking response is found in each of the following verses: Proverbs 19:11; Colossians 3:13; Philippians 2:4?**

The slippery slope illustration works like the blob that you've seen at summer camp or at the water park growing up. The idea is that you try to stay at the top of it, but you're destined to slip down one side or the other. As conflict escalates, our responses tend to begin to slide downhill in one direction or the other.

Although the goal is to establish the pros of the peacemaking responses and the cons of the attack and escape responses, what are the *perceived* pros for the escape and attack responses? Some examples might be:

- "If you just ignore it, it will go away." This sounds like a good thing to some people. Why wouldn't it be?
- "Oh, it isn't really a big deal, it's no problem at all" This is perhaps a more common escape response and is so closely related to "overlooking," which is a peacemaking response. What is the subtle difference? Why does one result in peacemaking and the other in escaping?

- "If you don't let them push you around, put them in their place, they'll respect you more." On the surface, this may be "good" advice in some situations, but why wouldn't this lead to peacemaking? What will the long term effect of this type of response be?

3. Read James 4:1-3. What does this passage tell us causes quarrels? What does this passage say about why we don't get what we ask for? Talk about how conflict would turn out differently if Philippians 2:4 were applied.

The cause of conflict is simply when we don't get what we wanted. Think about it, you can trace almost all conflict back to the fact that we were expecting one thing, and something else happened. And, we often don't get what we ask for, because what we're asking is selfish!

The bottom line of this question is that if we would apply Philippians 2:4 - that is, to put others first - conflict would decrease and peacemaking would increase!

- What would it take for you to begin to change what you care about and start applying Philippians 2:4?
- What would the result be in your family, at your workplace, etc if you began to put others first?
- How would the world be a different place if (even a handful of) people put others first? Be specific, who might still have a job? Who might still be alive? Who might still be in office? Who might still have a good reputation? Who might have followed Jesus? Who might not have been hurt by the church or church people?

4. How did Jesus "overlook" my offense (Romans 5:8)? How can we do that for others? How might our peacemaking approach to conflict lead other people to follow Jesus (John 13:34-35; Colossians 3:12-17)?

We don't stand a chance of peacemaking and forgiving others if we don't let Jesus make peace with us first! Sometimes the very thing driving escape and attack in conflict is a heart that has no peace. That's why we say "hurting people hurt people."

End your group time tonight praying for those who don't have the peace of knowing Jesus, and pray for the people in your group to be able to fight in such a way that Jesus is known!

END YOUR TIME PRAYING TOGETHER (10 Minutes)