

# HOME GROUP

## Leader Guide



**FIGHT CLUB**  
**THE OLD GUYS**  
MAY 3, 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.

### **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.

### **BAPTISM**

Both campuses will celebrate baptism this month! If you’re interested in this next step, please go to [www.onelifeknox.com/baptism](http://www.onelifeknox.com/baptism) for more information and get the process started. Feel free to reach out to your campus pastor or connections director.

### **KIDS SUMMER TEAM**

Summer Team is a great opportunity to “get your feet wet” and get connected at OneLife. It’s a six-week volunteer opportunity throughout June and July. There is an interest meeting during second service on May 17<sup>th</sup> if you think this is the opportunity for you. For more information, email your campus kids director ([www.onelifeknox.com/staff](http://www.onelifeknox.com/staff))

### **GENEROSITY CHALLENGE ONLINE**

If you haven’t already signed up for All In – 2015 Generosity Challenge, you can do that online by visiting [www.onelifeknox.com/challenge](http://www.onelifeknox.com/challenge)

## **KEY SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK:**

### **JAMES 4:1-2 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? <sup>2</sup> 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:

**Bottom Line:** Win the fight in me before trying to win the fight with them.

- We often try to fix others in areas we need to fix ourselves, first!
- This can also be true in conflict.
- Instead, we should deal with our own sin and contributions to the issue before trying to fix someone else.
- After dealing with our own sin and contributions, we will be able to see more clearly how to truly help - not just fix - the other person.
- This makes us like Jesus who took responsibility for sin committed against him that he had absolutely nothing to do with.

1. **Pastor Rodney gave the example of putting on someone else's oxygen mask before putting on your own, or someone not good with money trying to fix your finances. Have you ever had an experience where someone tried to fix you in an area they weren't fixed? Better yet, have you ever tried to fix someone else in an area you hadn't yet mastered and it backfired?**

Drive the discussion toward people fixing someone else before what they should do first - fix themselves. The main objective is to turn this personal! How have the people in your group tried to fix someone else when they should have spent time fixing themselves? This will be important to build the thought process toward self correction in conflict before attempting to correct someone else. So be a leader...go first! Come prepared with an example of how you tried to fix someone else when you could have spent that time fixing yourself! It can be funny, light hearted, or something that gets others talking!

2. **Read Matthew 7:1-2. What type of judgement did we learn this refers to? How is it different than dealing with sin? What are some ways you've seen this verse used out of context? How have you misunderstood it?**

Reminder: we learned this refers to judging character NOT judging sin! It's the difference between "judging the sin but not the sinner."

People today love to say, "Don't judge me!" or "It's not my place to judge." This is true when it comes to character of others, but not necessarily when it comes to sin! It may be helpful to ask the group to think of examples of Jesus dealing with Sin. How did he do it without judging the person, but only their actions?

One example is the woman caught committing adultery. If your group needs a good example, this is yet! Read John 8:1-11. How did Jesus handle it in verse 11? He called it what it was - sin! But he didn't judge her beyond that sin. How can we model this same "judge the sin but not the sinner" concept?

- 3. Verse 2 teaches that we will be judged to the standards we judge others. If we judged others like God judges them, what would it look like? How would it change the amount of conflict we have in relationships? On the flip side of that thought, if God judges me how I judge others what would that look like? How does that thought help you think about conflict and fighting with people you know?**

Psalm 103:12 tells us what God thinks about our sin once we confess. This means he no longer holds it against us. He doesn't see us as sinners any longer because the sin is GONE. He sees us as forgiven and clean. If we did that, what would the effects be on conflict? The answers could be many, including...

- Not bring up the past. No longer holding it against the offender, because God didn't do that to me.
  - Hope for resolution and not getting even. God simply gives grace rather than looking to get back at us.
  - Approach out of love rather than anger. God came to earth as an act of love because of our sin. He didn't come out of anger looking to cause us pain.
- 4. Read Matthew 7:3-5. What were the two types of logs we need to look for before fixing someone else's speck? Which of these logs are the most difficult to get rid of for you? What would change about how you view the person you want to take issue with if you first dealt with your own log? Read Romans 12:3. What thoughts or ideas does this verse bring up for you in terms of dealing with your logs?**

Reminder: the two types of logs were related logs and unrelated logs. Related logs are those actions or attitudes of mine that may have contributed to the conflict. Even if it's only 1%, there's something for me to take responsibility for! This is going to be the case in almost all of our conflicts. Unrelated logs are sins that may exist in my own life regardless of whether or not I have responsibility to take in the conflict. These are sins that the conflict could expose that I need to let God deal with.

Reading Romans 12:3 makes it very difficult to truly approach someone else out of anger or with hopes of getting even. It causes me to realize that I am no better than that person who I am taking issue with. It should lead me to the place of having a softer heart and not just assuming the worse in the other person. If I experience grace from God by dealing with my log

first, a natural response will/should be having more grace to offer. Without that, I can't give what I haven't first received!

- 5. Think of a "log vs. speck" issue from your own life that you either handled well or - like most of us - poorly. How would dealing with your log first make you more like Jesus? How would this impact your story of what Jesus has done for you? How would this change the way you share your story with people who don't yet believe?**

Jesus removed a log he never even had. When he died for sin, he took responsibility for something he never did in the first place. By removing the logs in my eye before looking for the speck in someone else's, it moves me in the direction of being more like Jesus. It teaches me how to offer grace to others even when they don't deserve it. Because, after all, that's exactly what Jesus did for me.

This is the very thing that makes true Christ-followers different. My story will become filled with times that I could have evened the score or had conflict with someone who hurt me, but instead I chose to offer grace. But not because of how good I am, but because the Holy Spirit gives me the power to pass on what I've received. This is a story that an unbelieving world would find intriguing and see as something that's real!

**END YOUR TIME PRAYING TOGETHER (10 Minutes)**