

HOME GROUP

Leader Guide



FIGHT CLUB
PULLING PUNCHES
MAY 10, 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.

BAPTISM

Both campuses will celebrate baptism this month! If you're interested in this next step, please go to 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 17th if you think this is the opportunity for you. For more information, email your campus kids director (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

KEY SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK:

MATTHEW 18:12-15 (NLT)

¹² “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety- nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost? ¹³ And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety- nine that didn’t wander away! ¹⁴ In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father’s will that even one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵ “If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM HANDOUT (35 Minutes)

Jog Your Memory:

Bottom Line: Winning the person trumps winning the fight

- In boxing, pulling punches means to withhold punches for some purpose. Maybe reserving energy for the end of the fight, or for some other purpose.
- Jesus goal was not to lose even one sheep. Likewise our goal should be to not even lose one person!
- Go in private to let the other person know that you've been hurt
- Five practical steps to take:
 - Choose the right time and place
 - Assume the best about the other person until you've got all the facts
 - Listen carefully – what was their response?
 - Speak only in a way that builds them up! (Ephesians 4:29)
 - Recognize my limits – “I’m not the Holy Spirit” (Romans 12:18)

- 1. What is the worst thing you or someone you know (no names, please) have done to another person that required an apology? Share an example of a time when you or someone you know deserved to be punished in some way (fired, kicked off the team, smacked upside the head) but you weren't punished harshly – or even received the opposite of what you deserved? Which is harder for you: forgiving others or asking for forgiveness from others?**

Guide this discussion to really discover instances when people have experienced “pulling the punches.” What was the result of someone pulling punches for you? How might it have turned out differently if the full penalty had been leveraged against you? Help the group see that pulling punches is a tool in our tool belt that helps us create opportunities to share the Jesus— because, after all, this is exactly what Jesus has done for us that created a way to have relationship with God. So, give this some thought and come ready to share your examples and lead this first question!

- 2. The sermon taught us that winning the person trumps winning the fight. Of the practical suggestions made during the sermon, which one stands out to you the most, why? Which one is the hardest for you, why? In contrast to speaking publicly, what benefit does a private discussion offer for *both* parties, why? What's the difference between pointing out a person's offense and pointing out their character? What changes can you make to your thinking that will allow you to get this right?**

These questions center around the practicality of pulling punches. Think about it, these suggestions are often difficult for us because our human

nature wants to go on the attack! We want the other person to feel the pain that you have felt due to their offense.

Help the group get going on the aspect of a private conversation. Go deeper than just “why is it important,” and really drive toward “what opportunities does it create to restore the relationship and represent the Gospel.”

- 3. Read Colossians 3:12-15. Why did Paul (the writer of Colossians) start by pointing out our relationship with God? What three ways does Paul describe our standing with God? How does our standing with God affect the way we should treat others? Which of the attributes and commands that Paul gives us comes easiest to you? Which ones are the hardest?**

It’s been said that you can’t give what you haven’t received. Therefore, our standing with Jesus is super important to how we might have true peace with those around us. Just as much, how we treat others and handle conflict tells the world all they need to know about your god.

- 4. When is the last time you felt the mercy God showed in forgiving you? What was that like? Is there anyone in your life that you need to forgive right now? What is keeping you from forgiving? How might pulling punches turn into an opportunity to share the gospel through your story?**

This question might get a little personal, but please don’t shy away from leading your group strongly through this one! The payoff is HUGE as people experience the tension that the Holy Spirit creates around forgiving or seeking forgiveness with those around us. We want people to discover how healthy conflict always leads to restoration and growth in the relationship, but also in our faith!

END YOUR TIME PRAYING TOGETHER (10 Minutes)