

HOME GROUP

Leader Guide



OBJECTIONS
THE WHOLE STORY
OCTOBER 4, 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.

GET TO KNOW ONELIFE LUNCH

Are you new to OneLife, and want to know more about how OneLife started and our vision to reach Knoxville? Sign up for the Get To Know OneLife lunch after the second service at the Powell campus on October 11th. Mark "Get To Know OneLife" on your connection card on Sundays or email us at mail@onelifeknox.com for more information.

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

If you like Sunday morning worship at OneLife then you'll love our night of worship coming up on Wednesday night, October 21 at 6:30pm. Both campuses will join together at our Powell campus, sing songs, take communion, and hear a great message from Pastor Rodney. You don't want to miss it!

STUDENT MINISTRY RALLY AND BONFIRE

If you're a middle or high school student then come check out OneLife Students! We meet the first 3 Sunday nights of every month at 6pm at your campus. It's a great way to get to know other students and grow together spiritually. Plus, on Sunday night, October 18 we're having a Student Ministry bonfire! Both campuses will join together at our Halls location at 6pm for worship songs around the bonfire, fun and games, and a Holy Ghost Weenie Roast (yeah, that's right - we said it!). Parents are invited to stay, we've got something special for you! We can't wait to see you there!

KEY SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK:

LEVITICUS 27:30 (NLT)

³⁰ “One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy.

PROVERBS 3:9-10

⁹ Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the best part of everything you produce.
¹⁰ Then he will fill your barns with grain,
and your vats will overflow with good wine

MATTHEW 6:21 (NLT)

Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7 (NLT)

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”

DEUTERONOMY 14:23 (TLB)

Bring this tithe to eat before the Lord your God at the place he shall choose as his sanctuary; this applies to your tithes of grain, new wine, olive oil, and the firstborn of your flocks and herds. The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.

MALACHI 3:8-9 (NLT)

⁸ Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.

MATTHEW 23:23

²³ “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-2 (NLT)

¹ Now regarding your question about the money being collected for God's people in Jerusalem. You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia. ² On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM HANDOUT (35 Minutes)

Jog Your Memory:

Bottom Line: Tithing is little about money and all about my heart.

What is tithing?

1. Tithing is returning the first 10% of our income to God's church
2. Tithing is giving God my first and best so he can bless the rest.

Why Tithe?

1. It protects my heart
2. Tithing teaches me how to be crazy generous
3. Tithing teaches me to put God first
4. Tithing builds my faith in God
5. Tithing provides for God's work through the church

1. **If you unexpectedly received \$50,000 tonight, what do you think you would do with the money? How much do you think you would save? Spend? Would you give any away? Why or why not? If you won the lottery, would you become a more generous person, why or why not?**

Open up the group time with the fun aspect of this question. Then, the second half of the question begins to deal with how our money and our heart are connected. But, the challenge is that generosity and a healthy view of money don't start with having money; it starts with a changed heart!

2. **What are some objections that you have had or have heard from other people about giving to the church? In your opinion, why is money a touchy subject for people to discuss – even outside of the church context?**

Money is such a touchy subject because it's tied to our heart in some powerful ways – not always in a spiritually healthy way! Money is often how we measure and define our own success, power/influence, happiness, comfort, etc. We use it to provide ourselves many of the same things that God promises if we'll let him be our provider.

You may hear stories of people who have been hurt by the church in the past. Please be careful not to let gossip transpire; however, the group is a great place for people to be cared for. Remember, this isn't really about

the money; it's about the heart. You can keep the discussion on track by asking about the heart more than the money!

- 3. What does Leviticus 27:30 say about wealth? What does it mean to “set [it] apart as holy?” What are some practical ways you can set aside a tithe?**

Truly, our wealth isn't really ours – it belongs to the Lord. We've got to shift our minds from thinking that we are giving OUR money, to what we learned in the sermon: “returning the first 10% to God's church.”

One of the most practical ways to set a tithe aside is to automate it. Most people automate other important items like their mortgages, insurances, etc. so they don't slip through the cracks and become forgotten. The truth is, setting it aside as holy still takes place in the heart

- 4. Read Malachi 3:8-12. In what ways is *not tithing* robbing God? What can Christians expect as a result of giving the whole tithe to the church? What does the lack of faithfulness in giving reveal about our relationship with God?**

One of the main evidences that the people of Israel's hearts were not right before God is found in verse 8 where God says of Israel, “You are robbing me.” The “payments of the tenth” mentioned in verse 8 represent tithing, the biblical standard for returning back to God a tenth of what is already His. The act of tithing pre-dated the Christian church and was practiced as early as the Book of Genesis (see Gen. 14:18-20; 28:22), and it remains part of God's standard today. The “offerings” referred to other contributions that supported the Levites, the priests, and the poor.

- 5. Of the 5 reasons to tithe mentioned in the sermon, which one stands out as the most important or impactful to you? Why? Which one is the most difficult? Why?**
- 6. Share how tithing has impacted your relationship with Jesus? Philippians 4:19 says that God will supply all of your needs; how has he done this in your life or your family? How have you had to sacrifice in order to give a tithe; or, what could you sacrifice in the future?**

No surprise that tithing and experiencing Jesus are connected; because, your heart and your money are connected! This is an opportunity for your group to share their testimony of how Jesus has proven himself faithful to fulfill his promises when we are faithful with a tithe.

END YOUR TIME PRAYING TOGETHER (10 Minutes)