

# HOME GROUP

## Leader Guide



### COMPARISON TRAP

HIGHLIGHT REEL

OCTOBER 25, 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.

### **TEST DRIVE**

Ready to become a OneLife Volunteer? Sign up for Test Drive, a volunteer interest meeting, on November 1st. For more information and to sign up, email your campus' connection director or fill out the form at [www.onelifeknox.com/volunteer](http://www.onelifeknox.com/volunteer)

*Already a volunteer?* Help others get involved on a volunteer team by shoulder tapping those around you and inviting them to join you as you volunteer. Who is it you would like to see volunteer along side you? All you need to do is invite them to Test Drive in March.

### **IT'S FOOTBALL TIME...**

Join your OneLife family on the campus of the University of Tennessee, November 14<sup>th</sup> for some pre-game tailgating; then, come sit with your OneLife family and watch the Vols beat North Texas. Get your tickets at [www.onelifeknox.com/football](http://www.onelifeknox.com/football).

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

### **ECCLESIASTES 4:4 (NLT)**

<sup>4</sup> Then I observed that most people are motivated to success because they envy their neighbors. But this, too, is meaningless—like chasing the wind.

### **1 SAMUEL 16:6-7 (NLT)**

<sup>6</sup> When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, “Surely this is the Lord’s anointed!” <sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM HANDOUT (35 Minutes)

1. **Describe a time when you got to go back stage or behind the scenes at a concert or other event? What did you find surprising or different from what you imagined?**

Examples to suggest: backstage at a concert, in the production suite at church, in the pits at a Nascar race, in a factory where something is made, or maybe a “How It’s Made” type of TV show...

The behind the scenes is often very different from the end product. The same is true for our lives as well. What we present and what we keep hidden back stage are often two very different things. This question will be a fun way to establish this foundation for the rest of our discussion.

2. **Read Ecclesiastes 4:4-6. How do you find yourself tempted to compare to others? Describe a time when you got something you really wanted, only to find out later that it doesn’t satisfy. How is comparison like “chasing after the wind?”**

Ecclesiastes says that *most people are motivated to success because they envy their neighbors*. This is the comparison trap! This is the definition of keeping up with the Joneses, and the Bible says that nearly everyone experiences this at some point in life.

Let the group get some traction on this idea, and then drive home that the “success” that we strive for because of our envy never really lasts! With each new level of success is a new level of comparison... The Bible describes it as “chasing the wind.”

3. **Read Ecclesiastes 6:9. Which of the ten commandments (Deuteronomy 5) does this verse remind you of? Is it sin to have a desire for things? What’s the difference between ‘having things’ and ‘things having you’? Describe how comparing fuels coveting.**

It’s not a sin to desire things. Desires are not wrong, but when desire is uncontrolled, it becomes coveting. Coveting causes you to think you have to have more, more, more! When you compare your life to someone else’s highlight reel, it causes you to want what you don’t have – you want what someone else has...

Allow the group to deal with this idea of *sin*. Even though it can be a tough conversation, if we never talk about the sinful aspects of the comparison trap, we’ll only be slightly better people – not saved people!

- 4. Read Proverbs 11:1. How are highlight reels like “dishonest scales”? What are “accurate weights”? Have you ever known someone to make major life decisions like purchasing a house, deciding on a college or even getting married based on of comparison to someone else (dishonest scales)? How might their decision have been different if they had used accurate weights? What advice did you give (or want to give) this person, and why?**

Highlight reels are dishonest because highlight reels are only half the story! In the comparison trap, we’re focused on what others have, how others are living and we’re conspiring to become more like them. We’re measuring our lives with a dishonest scale.

The only true measure of how we’re doing comes when we begin to listen to the voice of Jesus above all of the other voices.

- 5. Read 1 Corinthians 11:1. Who does Paul say we should compare to and imitate? How would things be different if people compared to Jesus rather than other people’s highlight reels? How would you be different if you did this? How would doing this help you reach your neighbors and friends?**

End your group time by talking about how you’re going to apply what we’ve discussed... How will this help other people discover Jesus?

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