

HOME GROUP

Leader Guide



COMPARISON TRAP

EXPECTATION GAPS

NOVEMBER 1, 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.

PARADE FLOAT

Believe it or not the Christmas season is about to kick off! Which means it's time for our annual Christmas Parade Float. Construction begins on November 17th. If you like construction, crafting, or just having fun and hanging out with people and want to help build our float email us at mail@onelifeknox.com or let your home group leader know. This is also a great opportunity for home groups to pick a construction night and all serve together!

Leaders: If an individual in your home group would like more information, they can email mail@onelifeknox.com for more information or you can alert your campus' Connection Director to follow up with them for more information.

Halls: email asher.coker@onelifeknox.com

Powell: email amanda.gilpin@onelifeknox.com

FAMILY FOOTBALL DAY

The University of Tennessee has offered us block seating for the homecoming game verses North Texas on November 14. Tickets are at a very reduced rate of only \$20 per person and includes a pre-game tailgate at the baseball stadium on campus. If you already have tickets to the game, there is a tailgate only option for \$5. This is a great way to get to know other OneLifers and have a little football fun too! Get your tickets at onelifeknox.com/football.

KEY SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK:

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NLT)

¹ And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.

Judges 6:12-16 (NLT)

¹² The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, “Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!”

¹³ “Sir,” Gideon replied, “if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn’t they say, ‘The Lord brought us up out of Egypt’? But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites.”

¹⁴ Then the Lord turned to him and said, “Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!”

¹⁵ “But Lord,” Gideon replied, “how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!”

¹⁶ The Lord said to him, “I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM HANDOUT (35 Minutes)

KEY POINTS:

Bottom Line: Self-defined expectation gaps become the worst of all comparison traps.

1. Comparing to my unmet expectations instead of God's expectations traps me in rejection.
2. Comparing to my unmet expectations instead of God's expectations traps me in mistaken identity.
3. Comparing to God's expectations instead of my unmet expectations breaks me free of all traps.

- 1. Think about the last vacation you took or the last trip you went on. Did it meet your expectations or fall short? What did you find yourself comparing it to – previous trips, your own self-defined expectations, or something else?**

You probably found yourself wanting to interrupt the sermon and share your own “vacation-from-you-know-where.” Getting the whole group talking by sharing your own personal vacation melt-down!

- 2. Read Judges 6:12-16. What unmet expectations did Gideon have in verse 13? What highlight reels did he compare to in verse 15? In what ways do you relate to these two comparisons Gideon made? How do the highlight reels you compare to end up leading to unmet expectations?**

Gideon was basically wrestling with this question “If the Lord is with us, why are all these bad things happening!” On the surface, it's not a bad question; but, Gideon needed to realize that he's stuck in the comparison trap! He had preconceived ideas about what kind of person could be a rescuer for Israel.

Help your group relate to Gideon and the comparison trap that he was in! Think of ways that this comparison trap ensnares us. When bad things happen, we assume “well, this is it” or “I knew it, things always go this way for me.” How are those lines of thinking a comparison trap?

- 3. Re-read verses 12, 14, and 16. What do these verses have in common? What is God trying to get Gideon to compare to? How are these verses different than the comparison trap Gideon was caught in? Now read these verses: Psalm 103:12; Matthew 10:29-31; Romans 8:15-16, 38-39; and 2 Corinthians 5:17. What is God saying about you in each of these, assuming you have given your life to Jesus? How is this different than what unmet expectations might tell you if you compare to those instead?**

In verses 12, 14, and 16, THE LORD is speaking to Gideon "I'm with you!" This is exactly what Gideon was having a hard time believing. He assumed that the present day circumstances meant that God wasn't fighting for them!

- He removed our sin
- You're valuable to God! He knows everything about you!
- You're God's Son/Daughter, and he's given you His spirit – not a fearful one!
- You cannot be separated from Him! He'll never let you go!

- 4. How does living in the comparison trap of unmet expectations hurt our ability to show and share Jesus to those where we live, work, and play? How would comparing more to Jesus and to what God says about you make a difference in those relationships?**

End your meeting time brainstorming about how this comparison trap might keep you from sharing Jesus with those around you! If you compared your relationships with other people to Jesus instead of your own expectations, our eyes would immediately open to their need to know Jesus – and our need to live on mission!

END YOUR TIME PRAYING TOGETHER (10 Minutes)