

HOME GROUP

Leader Guide



COMPARISON TRAP

MIS-DIRECTION
NOVEMBER 8, 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.

CHRISTMAS PARADE FLOAT CONSTRUCTION

Every year OneLife participates in Christmas parades all over Knoxville. This is a great way to represent OneLife Church out in the community. Plus, it's a lot of fun! We need your help with parade float construction and decorating. Whether you're a handyman, crafty decorator, or just want to hang out and get to know people, you'll love helping out! Sign-ups are available at onelifeknox.com/parade.

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 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.

STUDENT MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTY

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, December 6th we're having a Student Ministry Christmas Party! Both campuses will join together at our Powell location at 6pm.

KEY SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK:

1 PETER 2:21-25 (NLT)

²¹ For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

²² He never sinned,
nor ever deceived anyone.

²³ He did not retaliate when he was insulted,
nor threaten revenge when he suffered.
He left his case in the hands of God,
who always judges fairly.

²⁴ He personally carried our sins
in his body on the cross
so that we can be dead to sin
and live for what is right.

By his wounds
you are healed.

²⁵ Once you were like sheep
who wandered away.
But now you have turned to your Shepherd,
the Guardian of your souls

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM HANDOUT (35 Minutes)

KEY POINTS:

Bottom Line: What I compare to determines my direction

- If we compare to highlight reels or unmet expectations, that's the direction our life will follow. But if we compare to Jesus, we'll go that direction and begin becoming more like Him.
- Jesus never sinned and never deceived. If we compare to that, our life will go a much different direction than comparing to those who "sin more" or "sin less" than we do!
- Jesus never sought revenge. This is far different than what our friends and family might do or tell us to do. If we compare to their expectations, our life will follow that direction. But if we compare to Jesus in this area, we'll begin to follow his example instead.
- We compare to Jesus because of all that he did and does for us. He is the healer! Not our highlight reels and not our expectations. He is the one who rescues, not our comparisons.

1. **How have you experienced the reality that what you compare to or look at determines your direction (i.e. driving, skiing, walking and texting, etc.)? Has it ever led to a crash and burn of some kind?! How have you seen this in your life through decisions that you have made, either good or bad?**

Start with physical examples then transition to real life examples. I.E. I compared to what other people's houses were like and ended up buying a house we couldn't afford, or I saw everyone else married and compared my loneliness to that and ended up in a relationship that was not what God wanted for me.

2. **Read 1 Peter 2:21. How did Jesus suffer? How does our own suffering - or what we think is suffering - tempt us to compare to others' highlight reels or our own expectation gaps? If you compare your suffering to Jesus' suffering, how does it compare? How would that keep you headed in the right direction?**

The idea here is we all suffer and feel suffering when we don't get what we want! It can lead us to looking at the highlight reels around us and feeling like we are the only ones suffering or that others suffer less than we do.

But if we compare to Jesus, we see what real suffering looks like. And we see that he suffered with a mission that made a difference in the world! He gives us the example to follow in that we shouldn't ignore or try to escape the suffering, but let God use it to grow us and impact others.

For follow up, read 1 Peter 4:12-13. Ask the group how this relates to comparing the right way.

3. **Read 1 Peter 2:23-24. If we compare to other people in our lives or what we see around us, how will the things that Jesus did (or rather didn't do) be minimized? If we don't compare to Jesus in these areas, how will it take us off course? Read Hebrews 4:14-15. How does this show us that Jesus can relate to what we go through? How does this make comparing to Jesus even more important?**

The idea in the first half of this question is to show how the world minimizes sin. If we compare to sin, it will lead to more sin!

- The world minimizes deception. White lies aren't really all that bad! If we compare to that, we'll be trapped in deceit. The world would say "Get even!" If we compare to that, we'll be trapped in revenge.
- The world would say, "Take matters into your own hands! Do what makes YOU happy!" If we compare to that, we never put our lives into the hands of God.

Then the second half is about realizing that Jesus experienced the same temptations that we do. What are examples of times in Jesus' life that he may have wanted to tell a white lie? Get revenge? Take matters into his own hands? By comparing to Jesus, we have an example that it can be done - not on our own - but by trying to be like him!

4. **How does comparing to Jesus give you more opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people around you? What difference will they notice? How has your own story changed - or could it change - from what it was like when were trapped in comparison to highlight reels and expectations versus how it is now - or could be - that you compare to Jesus and what he wants for you instead?**

Get practical here! Be prepared with your own story. Before I compared to Jesus, I was trapped in thinking that I wasn't good enough or I would never be happy.

But comparing to Jesus I find that he forgives me and gives me all the joy that I need.

END YOUR TIME PRAYING TOGETHER (10 Minutes)