

# HOME GROUP

## Leader Guide



### COMPARISON TRAP

NOVEMBER 15, 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](http://onelifeknox.com/parade).

### **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:**

### **JOHN 14:1 (NLT)**

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me

### **2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-8 (MSG)**

<sup>3-6</sup>The world is unprincipled. It’s dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn’t fight fair. But we don’t live or fight our battles that way—never have and never will. The tools of our trade aren’t for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture. We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ. Our tools are ready at hand for clearing the ground of every obstruction and building lives of obedience into maturity.

<sup>7-8</sup>You stare and stare at the obvious, but you can’t see the forest for the trees. If you’re looking for a clear example of someone on Christ’s side, why do you so quickly cut me out? Believe me, I am quite sure of my standing with Christ. You may think I overstate the authority he gave me, but I’m not backing off. Every bit of my commitment is for the purpose of building you up, after all, not tearing you down.

### **2 CORINTHIANS 10:12 (MSG)**

<sup>12</sup>We’re not, understand, putting ourselves in a league with those who boast that they’re our superiors. We wouldn’t dare do that. But in all this comparing and grading and competing, they quite miss the point.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM HANDOUT (35 Minutes)

- 1. Describe the worrier (not warrior ;) in your family... What kind of things caused them to worry the most, why? Describe the non-worrier in your family? What kinds of things didn't they worry about, why? Which personality type are you? What's the best advice about worry that you've heard? Can someone truly choose to "not worry about it?" If so, how does that work?**

The Bible says much about worry (Philippians 4:6-7; Matthew 6:25-34; Luke 12:25), but we're going to dive deeper than just simply worrying. What are the types of things that *trouble* people's hearts? Even the most care-free person experiences trouble. So, how can we choose to not let our hearts be troubled?

We want the group to get some traction on this subject, because choosing what troubles our heart has everything to do with choosing to what we compare our realities.

Some suggestions to break the comparison trap and not allow our hearts to be troubled:

- Celebrate other's successes
- Learn to measure using God's scale, not your own tape measure
- Only new desires will drive out old desires – what are you desiring that is causing your heart to be troubled?

- 2. Dan used an interesting illustration during the sermon this week explaining how hermit crabs attach themselves to a shell for protection from predators. What are the kinds of things that we attach ourselves to that we believe will protect us; why do we believe they will protect us? Protection from what? How can the shell we choose end up crushing us instead of protecting us? Read 2 Corinthians 10:12. Where do you see the comparison trap in this verse?**

People attach themselves to all sorts of things that we believe will protect us and provide us with acceptance, approval and significance. We attach ourselves to relationships, careers, money, power/influence, the success of our kids, a good reputation, and lots of other possible examples, believing that those things will protect us from failing in the big bad world.

But, the fuel for this sort of behavior is the comparison trap! You'll never have as much as the next person, or appear as happy as the all-American family down the street.

- 3. Read 2 Corinthians 10:5. What, in your own words, does it mean to take every thought captive to obey Christ? Is this an active or a passive process? Why is that important to recognize? How does what you allow to come into your mind affect your ability to take your thoughts captive?**

Once you've identified a comparison trap in your mind, you have to take it captive. The way the stronghold is attacked and then demolished is through exposing it and then bringing the truth against the lie. Many people don't believe they can control what they think about, but the Bible tells us this is an active process. We can change the way that we live by changing how we think. We can change our behaviors by changing the way we think... And, we can change the way we think by simply comparing to Jesus rather than everything else; but, it's an active process.

- 4. Based on what you've learned from the comparison trap series so far, or today's sermon, what is the point that stood out to you the most? Who in your life needs to hear "don't let your hearts be troubled..." the most? Who in your life would be affected the most if you didn't allow your heart to be troubled? How does this help you show Jesus to a troubled world?**

We always end on a missional note! We want the groups thinking about those that are closest to them first, and then moving out from there. How has a constantly troubled heart held us back from showing Jesus to a troubled world?

Remember, Jesus is our HOPE! Even though there will be trouble, encourage your group to compare to Jesus, who offers us hope, healing, and a greater life, and let's make sure we are projecting that kind of faith to our broken world!

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