

GROUP LEADER GUIDE (Week: 10/11-10/17) – Vision: Whole Hearts

Sermon Text: Philippians 1:20-26 / Sermon Title: “Wholehearted Love for Jesus Christ”

BIG Idea: *Jesus Christ is most glorified in us when our hearts are full of love that surpasses all other loves in life.*

Focus this week: fellowship and relationship comfortability is still the focus this week. Be sure to spend plenty of time getting to know each other and grow in comfortability with one another. This is why it helps to have icebreakers, food, music, etc. at the beginning of your meeting. This will pay dividends in the later months.

FELLOWSHIP TIME (15 minutes)

Be sure to plan out some way to implement casual fellowship time as people come to your group.

STARTING OFF THE NIGHT (15 minutes)

After the fellowship time at the beginning of your meeting, have everyone find their seats and start off with an icebreaker. You can use one of the icebreakers from the leader resource page found here:

<https://lifewayresearch.com/2020/02/19/75-icebreaker-questions-for-church-small-groups/>

Pow’s and Wow’s (a.k.a. “High’s” and “Low’s”): After you do the icebreaker, one thing you can do to start your group off each week is called “Pow’s and Wow’s”. Have each person go around and share a “pow” (a low moment from the past week) and a “wow” (a high point moment from the last week). This can also be a great way to learn how you can pray for one another.

DISCUSSION (45 minutes)

Start discussion by saying, “This past Sunday we looked at the heart and soul of the renewed mission of CAB: *wholehearted love for Jesus Christ*. This is the most important thing that any human could ever do. The main thing we saw from Philippians 1:20-26 is that the main way we glorify Jesus Christ is not something that we *do* or *perform*, but something our hearts sense and feel towards Jesus.”

1. What were some things from the sermon that were particularly helpful or challenging for you?

2. In Philippians 1:23 Paul says that his “desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.” Some people might take this to mean that we shouldn’t care about this life at all and just escape this life. How do we know that is not what Paul is trying to say here? In what way does a deep desire to love Christ make us want to care about this life and love people?

3. Have someone read 1 Peter 1:8-9. What are some of the reasons you can think of that make you love Jesus Christ? Be specific.

4. Have someone read Revelation 2:1-7. This passage talks about how the church has “lost its first love” or “the love they had at first.” What are some things, habits, etc. that hinder your heart’s ability to feel love for Jesus Christ?

5. When was a time you recall where you felt more love for Jesus Christ than any other time? What was that experience like? Describe it and share thing you can learn from that experience.

6. Have someone read Psalm 119:32. How does this verse help you understand the relationship between love for God and obedience to God?

7. In what way can we pray for one another as it relates to wholehearted love for Jesus Christ?

PRAYER (15 minutes)

This is one of the most important things you can do for growing spiritually in your group. Always be sure to leave plenty of time to pray together as a group. ***Go around and have everyone share where they need prayer, then take plenty of time to pray for each person.***