



Leader Guide – Weekly Gathering

“Are we really going to talk about...poverty?”

for groups gathering April 20-26, 2008 • by Steve Fawver

Note to leaders: Be aware that the Group Listening Practice for this week is a bit longer than normal. It is going to take about 55 minutes to an hour. You may need to adjust the timing on some of the other sections to leave enough time.

Opening (5 minutes)

Take time as leaders to welcome people and set a tone of joy and openness in community.

Check-in Time (15 minutes)

What did you do to enjoy the sunshine this past week?

Centering Worship (10 minutes)

Read Colossians 3:12-17 and leave a few moments of silence:

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Sharing (15 minutes)

Questions you might use during this time:

- Where have you experienced God this week?
- What stood out to you as you used the exercises this week?
- What exercise or section of Scripture caught your attention and why?
- How have you been intentional in creating space to listen to Christ this week?
- How have you noticed Christ calling you to “live out love” this week?

Group Listening Practice (40 minutes)

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19: “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”

Now invite people to pay attention to God as you watch the DVD called “30 Days” (Session 1- “Minimum Wage”) that focuses on trying to live on minimum wage in our society. What do they notice as they watch this video?

Play the video.

Stop the video when it is finished and reread 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Now invite people to consider together the things they noticed and what God seems to be saying to them through this video?

Close by praying that we would do what we were challenged to do through the video, "Let our guard down and to put ourselves in the situation of someone else...become understanding and caring..."

Closing (5 minutes)

Confirm plans for the final weeks of your group meeting together.