

LIFE Group Leader Handout

March 22, 2015

Biblical Moral Values

Pastor Ayars

Scripture—I Timothy 3:14-15

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

Main Idea—God Defines Morality in Scripture; His Church Supports It

God is truth; He cannot lie. The enemy is a liar from the beginning, and his agenda always consists of lies.

The church of the living God supports and buttresses the truth. Some areas we have upheld over the years:

- Biblical sexual morality which in man is relational, volitional, and constant (not instinctive). God invented sexuality and he intends it for the expression of marital love, procreation, and as a picture of the love of Christ for his church. Sex becomes sinful when sexual satisfaction or gratification comes from anyone or anything other than your spouse in marriage. This includes adultery, fornication, bestiality, incest, rape.
- We believe in heterosexual love; the design and sanctity of marriage as defined by God. Homosexuality rejects the God of the Bible.
- We believe in the sanctity of human life. 55,000,000 babies have been aborted since the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973. Immorality and money drive the abortion industry.

Application—

- If you became a believer as an adult, how have your convictions changed on moral values?
- Can you share ways in which keeping God's ways has protected you from evil and harm?
- What have you found to be most effective when you are interacting with people of markedly different values from those of the Bible?

USING YOUR CELL PHONE TO LEAD YOUR SMALL GROUP

By Rick Howerton

Here's a principle pertaining to small groups that is so true: "The amount of conversation that takes place during a group meeting is directly related to the amount of conversation that takes place between meetings." For years I viewed this as a statement declaring the importance of groups hanging out together between meetings. Getting the group together between meetings definitely influences the amount of and intensity of conversations during group meetings. But I've also come to conclude a group leader having conversations with group members between meetings is an important responsibility if that group leader longs to have transformational conversations when the group gathering happens.

If you're a group leader and you're reading this, you're probably saying to yourself, "I don't have time to talk with group members between meetings--my schedule is packed." That would be a truism if it wasn't for the fact that you have a cell phone. And it would be true if it wasn't for the fact a long conversation isn't a necessity.

A few things to keep in mind....

A group leader can make contact with a group member via cell phone while driving to and from work or while running errands, etc. (Note: "hands free" necessary!)

If your drive time is short or you're calling a very talkative group member, let the group member you're speaking with know at the beginning of the conversation that you only have a few minutes, but you wanted to check on them.

When calling a group member to connect, simply ask them how they're doing and how you can pray for them.

If no one answers, leave a message stating you just wanted to know how they were doing and how you could pray for them. Don't feel obligated to call them back. If they want to talk, they'll call you. Be certain to leave a voicemail though. Whether or not you get to speak to the group member, they will be grateful and encouraged you cared enough to call.

If you do catch them, before finishing the conversation, pray a short prayer. But, if you're driving, don't close your eyes! Just sayin....

If you connect with each group member just once a month, it will greatly enhance your influence with each group member and will skyrocket the amount of time it takes for them to discuss life's real and often under discussed issues during our group meetings.