

LIFE Group Leader Handout

October 23, 2016

The Four All's in the Great Commission

Rev John Whitemore

Scripture— Matthew 28:16-20

[16] Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. [17] And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. [18] And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Main Idea—*The Great Commission uses All Authority, to Go to All Nations, to Teach All Jesus Commanded, with the Power God Provides All Our Days*

The Four "Alls:"

- **All Authority**—both in heaven and earth, the power of a sovereign; Jesus claims to be and is the Son of God
- **All Nations**—Jesus commanded that all nations would be disciplined by His followers—none of the people groups in the world are excluded
- **All That I Command You**—Jesus wants us to teach His followers to obey—to show faith in Christ by actually following Him
- **I Am With You All the Days**—this is not something that can be done without Jesus' accompanying presence and power.

Application—

- How would you describe your involvement with the work of missions around the world?
- How does this message change your perspective of God and what He is asking of His followers?
- What actions have you taken as a result of this truth?

FIVE WAYS FOR GROUPS TO THRIVE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

By Chris Surratt

The air is getting cooler, the leaves are starting to turn colors, and football season is in full swing. We are also heading into the toughest season all year for small groups. Fall and winter bring a myriad of parties, vacations, and holidays. It's tempting at this point to not fight against the busyness and just cancel the group until the new year. And by the time January hits, the group has lost any kind of momentum and has to start over.

Instead of giving into the craziness, groups can work with it and have a lot of fun at the same time. Here are five things that your group can do over the next two months to maximize the opportunities.

Use an October meeting to have a pumpkin carving contest. My group started this tradition a few years ago and it was a huge hit. Just have every person (or couple) bring a pumpkin and a few carving utensils. We would always buy a couple of extra pumpkins in case someone new was invited that night.

Plan a pre-Thanksgiving alternative meal. Everyone loves to eat, and what could be better than a Mexican-themed Thanksgiving meal? The crazier the food theme, the better. They will get plenty of traditional turkey and cranberry sauce on Thanksgiving Day!

Serve together at a homeless shelter or ministry on Thanksgiving morning. There are multiple opportunities around cities to serve on Thanksgiving day. You can be done by mid-morning and ready for your family celebration by 1pm. Nothing prepares your heart for being truly thankful than serving as a group for those without.

Plan an early December Christmas party and then take a break. Most parties don't get started until the second week of December, so prepare your group now to get their ugly sweaters washed before December 1st! Don't worry about attempting to have regular meetings through December. The normal rhythm of work and school parties will soon wipe out everyone's calendars.

Get your first meeting in January on the calendar now. Instead of scrambling to put something together in the whirlwind of the new year, go ahead and pick the date so that everyone can be ready for it after the festivities and relatives have disappeared. This will give everyone something to look forward to--coming back in January!

Holidays do not have to kill your group's momentum. If you get creative and plan ahead, they can give your members something to look forward to every year.