

Life Group Leader Handout

November 18, 2018

Our Journey—Hacking Sin To Pieces

Pastor Joe Garofalo

Main Text—Selected Scriptures from 1 Samuel 13 and 15; Romans 8:12-13 (shown below).

“So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

Main Idea—We must put to death sin in our lives wherever we see it. It is not sufficient to merely be remorseful. (That did not work for King Saul.)

4 Truth Statements about sin:

1. It is serious
2. It is never satisfied
3. It cannot be managed
4. God can redeem us

Application Questions—

Was there anything about king Saul that was relatable to your own life?

Has there been a time in your life when you’ve tried to “manage” your sin?

Is there a particular Scripture listed from the bulletin that you would like God to use to help you hack any sin to pieces?

Do you have a relationship with another or others, where you can be held accountable and visa versa? If not, would you have a desire to make that happen?

From Suzie: What is a small group leader's most important job? I recently read an article seeking to answer this question. It's an excellent read, but a little too long to put on the back of a sheet! You can, however, access it on our website under Small Group Leader Resources at islandchristian.com/leader-resources/a-small-group-leaders-most-important-job. Pastor Mike often encourages us to pray offensive prayers. The following article will help us as we seek the Lord in prayer for our groups.

PREPARE WITH PRAYER

By Reid Smith

Prayer is a vital part of personal and small-group life. Consider this: "In a recent study, the number one factor in the multiplication of small groups was the daily devotional life of the leader It is in our time alone with God that he gives us wisdom for leading our group."

Robert Logan and Jeannette Buller

We can too easily fall into the belief that our small group depends solely on us - our preparation, our knowledge, our skills. In reality, it is only through the Spirit that our efforts transform group members' lives. It's a good idea to regularly invite the Spirit into your small-group meetings, spending time in prayer together. And it's also important that part of your preparation puts you back at the feet of Christ. The next time you prepare, pray for your group and decide how you can regularly incorporate prayer into your preparation. Here are some suggestions:

Pray for clear vision and direction for your group.

Pray for the Lord to bring those to your group whom He wants to be there.

Pray for your group to be of "one heart and mind" in intent and purpose.

Pray for God to give you peace and confidence as the small-group leader.

Pray for God to protect you and your group from attacks from the enemy.

Pray for God's will to be done in the group and for a clear vision of what his will is.

Pray for God to reveal the person he wants to be your apprentice, and to place it on that person's heart to learn to lead alongside you.

Pray that God would use your group to reach and include those who are hurting and those who do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Pray for the Lord to prepare your group to reach out and launch new groups out of your own.

Pray that God would help your group emulate the early Christian communities in Acts 2:42-47 and 4:32-35.

Pray for your host family.

Pray for God's presence to be in the group meeting, and for intentionality in growing closer to him.