

LEADER GUIDE // WEEK ONE

Series Big Idea

The greatest priority in the life of a Christian should be to develop a deeper relationship with God.

Message Big Idea

Much of our relationship with God is within our control, so we need to be intentional about what we can control.

Scripture

Proverbs 24:30-34; 2 Peter 1:3-11

Ice Breaker & Opening Thought

The purpose of the ice breaker is to get your group thinking about the main theme of the message and the series. But here's some additional thoughts for you as you lead your group. First, have everyone turn off their cell phones. Seriously, come up with a creative way as a group to put the cell phone away during the lesson time. Secondly, if this is a new group, take time to get to know each other. If this is not a new group, and you haven't met for some time, catch up on what's been happening in each person's life over the summer. Third, be sure to address the importance of discipline in exercising, learning to play an instrument, or developing a new habit or breaking a bad habit. Finally, ask the group what being intentional about deepening one's relationship with God would like look.

Bible Discussion: Proverbs 24:30-34

We have been given a second trust: A life that is to reflect the character of Christ. That will not happen by accident. One must choose to do so. There will be many distractions and "other things" that will demand our time. What are some things that demand our attention? Some of them are good things, but our relationship with God must be a first priority.

Life Application

Some of the interests we chase aren't bad things in and of themselves, but we must realize that the only thing that will fill that longing is following Jesus. Help your group to see that our life ought to reflect Christ's life in our everyday walking around lives.

Challenge

All Christ-followers are called to be intentional about the development of their spiritual lives. Encourage your group to share one thing that they can begin to do this week to intentionally grow in their relationship with Christ. Have each person take one person's specific step and pray for them until your next meeting.

***Special note:** Life Groups often meet bi-weekly. If this is your group's case, get creative in still making sure each person still does the FOCUS study outside of Life Group on your off week. For example: If you don't meet as a Life Group until next week, do the study with a friend, spouse, or family member this week.