

LIFE GROUP LEADERS GUIDE

Whatever You Do #3: “Everyday Difference”

Tips for Leaders

Are there people in your group with untapped leadership potential? Are there people in your group who would flourish, if only they were given the opportunity? As we grow as a church we will need more and more leaders. It is most likely that the next generation of Life Group Leaders are already in our Life Groups! Is there anyone in your group you could deliberately invest more time in? Remember, you are looking for FAT leaders. Those that are Faithful, Available and Teachable. If you find these qualities in someone, pour yourself into them!

CONNECT IN with one another

Ask people to think of one or two things they appreciate about the person sitting to their right. Give them time to reflect on that person’s unique contribution to your Life Group, then give each person a chance to share. You’ll be amazed how much people appreciate about each other. *[Leaders note: This is an exercise in encouraging people to encourage one another! But it also emphasises the fact that what is most glorious about us is often how different we are from each other. This then leads into the Bible study on being salt and light.]*

CONNECT UP with God

- **Please read Matthew 5:1-16.**
- Phil was honest in his sermon that these verses horrified him when he first started considering what it would mean for him to follow Jesus. What shocks and offends you about the Beatitudes (v3-8)? What do you find refreshingly attractive about them?
- Jesus tells us in v13 that our attractiveness as Christians depends on how much we truly live out these principles of God’s Kingdom. In what practical ways have you been ‘salty’ this past week? In what ways, on reflection, have you been ‘unsalty’?
- As a Life Group, how can we help one another to keep our ‘saltiness’? *[Leaders note: Sodium chloride is actually a pretty stable compound. It only loses its saltiness when it is mixed with impurities, so what are the impurities that we as Christians need help to avoid?]*
- Even if we keep our saltiness, we will have little influence if we remain in the salt shaker. Where are your biggest opportunities for scattering?
- Jesus adds in v14-16 that our attractiveness as Christians also depends on how much we allow his light inside us to shine. Why do you think he adds this second metaphor? *[Leaders note: There is no contest between light and darkness – simply flip the switch and the light wins every time. This second metaphor also highlights that one of our biggest problems is fear. We often hide our light in order to blend into our surroundings because we are afraid of experiencing the rejection that Jesus promises in v10-12.]*
- In what ways are you tempted to hide your light under a bowl for fear of being different?
- Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones said famously that “*The glory of the gospel is that when the Church is absolutely different from the world, she invariably attracts it. It is then that the world is made to listen to her message, though it may hate it at first.*” Do you agree?

CONNECT OUT with the non-church people around you

- Spend time looking up at Jesus, worshipping him for how different he is from sinful humans.
- When your sung worship subsides, pray for greater holiness in one another, that God will fill you with his Holy Spirit and truly make you the salt of the earth and the light of the world.
- End your time together by *commissioning* people to be scattered like salt into the world!