

life groups

NLC Life Group Through the Bible Study

Week of December 3, 2017

Sermon: Big Screen | The Guardian



Life Group Schedule

15 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker Game: **MY NAME IS.** **Instructions:** Ask each person in the group to state his/her name and attach an adjective that not only describes a dominant characteristic, but also starts with the same letter of his name. For example, Generous Graham, Dynamic Dave. Write them down and refer to them by this given name for the rest of the evening (or at least for awhile!).

OPENING PRAYER

45–60 MIN **BIG SCREEN—The Guardian**

- **Movie Synopsis:** Ben, a Coast Guard rescue swimmer, still mourning the loss of his crew in a fatal accident, copes by dedicating his life to training new recruits. When he meets swimming champion Jake Fischer, he molds the cocky young man into his protege and takes him on a mission in the dangerous waters of the Bering Strait.
- The Coast Guard is a tough group, 39,000 strong.
 - › The toughest of them are the 280 rescue swimmers who face all measure of danger—even when the Navy won't take the risk.
 - › Their pay is meager, but their calling is to save lives.

CLIP 1 DIALOGUE

- › Ben: "I thought you said you willing to sacrifice your life for another. Why didn't you rescue your teammate?"
- › Jake responded, "Sir, I didn't realize we were a team."
- › Ben replied, "That is the only way we work is as a team, swim champ."
- The Coast Guard isn't training people to be impressive, but only to help others.

READ 2 CHRONICLES 15:9, JOHN 5:19, AND JOHN 12:49

- Whether in marriage or with siblings, friends, or coworkers, if you aren't working as a team, then you're against each other and everyone loses. You can never win in Christianity alone—Bayou Self.

Q1. What would you change about your words to others this week if you had first heard the Lord speaking His words to you?

Q2. What would change about your actions this week if you had first seen what Jesus's actions would have been in the moment?

- In sport, it's all about winning, but sport is like a sub-world to reality.
- In life, it's about the team finishing with as many people as we can.
 - › In sport only one gets the gold. In the Kingdom of God, no one gets it alone.

TAKE TURNS READING HEBREWS 12:1-3

- Q3.** What generally hinders you from running with perseverance the race marked out for you? What *is* the race marked out for you?
- Q4.** What do you believe you fix your eyes on most often?

READ PHILIPPIANS 3:14

- Q5.** What is the prize Paul is talking about in this verse?

TAKE TURNS READING 1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-27

- Paul tried to enter everyone's world to reach them, but he did it without sinning with them. What we run for is eternal and never fades away.
- Q6.** Practically speaking, how can you become "all things" to all people in your sphere of influence, so that you might win some?
- Q7.** What goal, what prize are you pursuing every day? Does it have eternal value?

CLIP #2.

- Ben is not impressed with a hotshot swimmer with prizes, because the goal is much more important than breaking records.
- One of the reasons many of you feel guilt and condemnation is because God will never give you a thumbs-up when you think you can do life without Him, without his grace, without his help.
 - › You will immediately become rescued by his grace when you see it's all about Him.

READ ROMANS 7:25—ROMANS 8:1

- Paul is saying I try to do what is right, but I keep doing the wrong thing. Who will rescue me from this failure and condemnation? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ...There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- There is one record we can't break—when Jesus held onto you while on that cross. He kept holding on. He never let go.

- Its painful to see someone we admire fall. I promise there will come a day when you see the strong in their faith fall.

CLIP #3. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO STAY IN THE GAME

- It's interesting that the only number Ben kept track of is the number of people he lost.
- Jesus gave the parable of the lost coin, the lost sheep, and the lost son. He wanted us to know that the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.
- It is good to remember the numbers, because it motivates you to reach the next one.

MARK 8:36 "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"

- The soul is worth more than all the world.

CLIP #4. JUST LIKE BEN, JESUS WANTS YOU MOTIVATED TO SAVE OTHERS BEFORE THEY LOSE THEIR SOUL.

Q8. Who do you need to take time to encourage, to tell them you're proud of them?

- The best moment will be when the Lord tells us, "Good job! Well done, faithful servant."

READ LUKE 15:1-7

- Instead of being intimidated with, "Who am I to help leave the 99 and find the one," take time to look around and ask, "Who's next?"
- One of the first things Jesus said to his disciples on the beach - was in Matthew 4:19, "Come follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."
 - › He's saying, "Come on, let's go get some more."
- As you know, NLC Candlelight services are a great opportunity to bring friends and neighbors to hear some encouragement during what is often a stressful season for a lot of people. Ask the Lord to show you one person to invite to Candlelight services.

PRAYER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Take time to pray over individual needs.
- Please refer to your local campus worship guide for relevant announcements.