



Life Groups 2018

NLC Life Group Study

Week of December 9, 2018
BIG SCREEN | The Greatest Showman

Life Group Schedule

15 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker: **Whose Story is it?** This icebreaker game lets you hear some fun, fascinating, and surprising stories. Pass out paper and pen and have everyone take a few minutes to write a personal experience. (The stranger, the better!) Fold the papers and put them in a basket, bag or box. Have three people at a time sit in front of the group. The leader randomly picks a slip of paper and hands it to the three people. Each member of the trio reads the paper aloud and then adds some details to the story. The group guesses if the story really belongs to one of the three and, if so, to which one.

TRANSITION: As you're gathering, spend a few minutes in worship & prayer.

OPENING PRAYER

45–60 MIN | THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

- This movie is about the life of PT Barnum, a visionary and a man of a million dreams. He dreamt about the future. We should as well, but he did it all through the eyes of major insecurity; it was all about him and not others. The results are common. His dreams brought him to major fame but also to major ruin. His wife saw this early, and she was concerned that his insecurities would keep him from ever being happy, meaning his accomplishments were never enough; he built his life for the appaluse of hte crowd, he wanted all the glory and validation. He lived for that standing ovation.

Q1. Do you build your life around the roar of the crowd or for an audience of one—Jesus?

- › Scene 1 opens with Barnum as a young boy, apprenticing with his father, at the home of a wealthy family with a young daughter. He took the blame for the daughter's dress being dirty and was slapped in the face. Years later, when he came for the rich man's daughter to marry her, her father responded, "She'll be back. Sooner or later she'll tire of your life, of having nothing, and she'll come right back home."

Q2. Has someone ever said something to you or spoken over you—maybe years ago—that wounded you deeply, that made you question the core of who you are, your identity?

Q3. Do you have any insecurity that is holding you back from a stronger relationship with God and/or those around you?

- Over time, Barnum drifts from values and focuses on vision.
 - › We always have both vision and values, though vision changes over time. It will slip away. Always fight for your values to remain.
 - › Values are more important than vision, but we spend more time

focused on vision because of insecurities. Values are closer to issues of the heart, which means we must remain in tune with where our hearts really are.

- › Vision, however, is further away from our insecurities, and so we can run after it, neglecting what's on our hearts, what's closer to home. It's tempting to focus on the big plan, the big picture, and not focus on the individual needs around you.
- Barnum has a moment when he comes to his senses—a Prodigal Son awakening—realizing he's made mistakes with his life. The result is that he sees life differently.
 - › Saul vs David - both were approached by a prophet. Saul, when approached, made excuses. David, when approached, responded, "You've got me! I have sinned."
 - › If vision is all you think about, you'll hurt the people around you and you'll even hurt the vision you have.

Q4. Give an example of a value you have for your family. How are you protecting that value?

PROV 13:15 "Good judgment wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful leads to their destruction.

PROV 4:23 "Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life."

PSALM 37:4 "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."

MATTHEW 12:25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand."

JAMES 1:8 "A double-minded person is unstable in all his ways."

- › We often know what we're thinking but we're not doing anything about it, not doing what the Holy Spirit is asking us to do. Whatever you think about will ultimately be seen.

Q5. What are you potentially thinking about that is ultimately going to get you in some trouble?

PHILIPPIANS 4:8 "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

Q6. What things do you think about that are important to you? What kinds of things do you think are important to God?

PRAY OVER NEEDS, ANNOUNCEMENTS