



Life Groups 2018

NLC Life Group Through the Bible Study

Week of September 2, 2018
Sermon: Click Bait | DREAMS

Life Group Schedule

15 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker Game: **Connecting Stories.** **Instructions:** This game is all about finding common experiences or themes between people. The goal of the game is to connect mini-stories in an interesting way. Materials required: Pens and Post-it notes or notecards. Divide into small groups of 6-8 people. Each person must share at least one item that connects to the other mini-stories. The longer the chain of items that can be created, the better. Write down a few words on a Post-it note to keep track of each part of the story.

The first player begins by sharing an interesting memory or experience that they have. For example, one player can say: "One time, I accidentally locked myself out of the house. So then I spent the entire day at a coffee shop." Any other person can tell a related story that has any similar themes or elements to the previous story. For example, the next person can say, "I am a coffee addict. Every day I drink 3 cups of coffee, and sometimes I can't sleep at night."

The next player, based upon the previous story shared, can say something related, such as: "I don't sleep much at night because I play lots of computer games until early morning." Any person can then add to the story, by saying something like, "I also love computer games." To help the group remember each part of the story, write a few words on a post-it note for each part of the story chain. The more interesting or funny the story, the better. The group with the longest connected chain of stories wins. This activity is a fun way to get people to share stories, while helping them learn similarities or common interests.

NOTE: Use the study however it flows most naturally for your group. If you lead a small group, you may want to stay together and go straight through the study. If your group is larger, you may want a leader to take the group through the main points, then save the questions for small group breakouts. How you use the study is always up to your discretion as a leader.

CHALLENGE: Leaders, it's important when you're walking through the following content and asking your group members to share, that you also are willing and able to share from your own experiences. Your authenticity will bring a level of safety and trust that your members may have never experienced before.

OPENING PRAYER

45-60 MIN Click Bait: **DREAMS**

TALK IT OUT

- Q1.** We all click on interesting things. What is the funniest click-bait you've ever seen?

- Q2.** Do you ever feel sucked in by click-bait? Whether it was accidentally or on purpose, have you ever felt like you just clicked something that you would truly be embarrassed if it was displayed on the big screen?

- Q3.** Have you noticed how much click-bait is fear-driven? Does it draw you in? Does it affect you?
- Q4.** In contrast, what are you involved in that drives, motivates, excites, and stirs your faith—that gets you up early or keeps you up late?

THERE ARE 2 DIFFERENT TYPES OF DREAMS:

- **A literal dream that God gives you while you sleep.**
 - › In the Bible, most dreams were given to warn people.

SEE JOB 33:14-18

 - › It's unusual to have a dream that tells you exactly where your life is headed, and you wouldn't have to walk by faith!
 - › If you know God well, He doesn't always have spell out vision or direction in the sky. There can come a point in your walk with God that you can live by the "Holy Spirit Nudge." He can nudge you with things like, "Serve your family," or "Strike up a conversation in line," "Text someone," or nudge you toward a group.
 - › God nudges us toward His Dreams – His Goals for us!
- **An ambitious God-honoring dream for a particular area of your life.** You see something that *could be* and *should be* but *wouldn't be* if you didn't get involved with God's strength.
- You've got ONE life, so dream BIG!! Dream God-sized Dreams!!
 - › This is not PRIDE! PRIDE lives in small dreams. Small Dreams are as prideful as small worship, when people worship God in ways that protect their own ego. They don't want anyone to think they are failing or coming up short on a dream or a goal, so they lower the bar right where Satan wants it – the Status Quo!

How do I get a vision, how do I get God's dream for my life?

1. DETERMINE TO DO GOD'S KNOWN WILL FIRST!
 - Living His life is what gives YOU LIFE!

READ EPHESIANS 5:15-17

 - If you get your life aligned with the Big things about God's will that are known, you will flow right into the Specific things of God that are not known to you yet! Like a funnel, the current created on the big end helps it flow the rest of the way. Doing God's Known will

creates a current in your life that Specific Dreams flow out of. And you are not alone! You have a Helper to help you do this.

READ EPHESIANS 1:4-5

- God's Known Will is for you to **KNOW HIM, SERVE HIM, and BECOME LIKE HIM.**

2. ASK GOD TO OPEN YOUR EYES TO SPECIFIC NEEDS

READ ROMANS 15:20-24

- Paul sees the desperate need to get the Gospel to everyone who hasn't heard about Jesus. The need made him DREAM.
 - › Your greatest dreams are you fulfilling the greatest needs..
- With most believers, in their times with Jesus, God will show them a need, then they'll get a vision for how to fill that need.

READ HABBAKKUK 2:2-3

APPLICATION

- Write down the major areas of your life where you wear different hats. The areas in your life where you don't have vision can harm the areas of your life where you do have vision.

A. Family: *"What is your vision for your family? For your marriage?"*

- › Find a day or two to get away, then get still and be open to God. Let the Holy Spirit guide you as you ask Him questions like this;
 - › What's the biggest need in my marriage?
 - › What could it be that it's not quite there yet?
 - › What do you want God?
- › Don't do this just once, but include this practice at every stage of your life and your kids' lives. God will help you see what you need to do when you get still like this.

B. Finances: *"God, what is your vision for my finances?"*

- › Get quiet before God and submit your finances to Him. He owns it all anyway!
- › God knows exactly how you need to earn it, spend it, invest it, and be generous with it!

- **C. Health:** *"God, this is your temple. Help me be the manager of this temple!"*

- › This takes discipline!

- **D. God:** *"God, what does my relationship with You need to look like timewise? Love-wise?"*

- › Are you delighting in the Lord or is it becoming stale, like a ritual?

- › Rate your commitment level on a scale of 1-10.
- › How are you doing serving?
- **E. Friends:** “God, how much of a priority are my closest relationships?”
- Your closest friends matter! The people around you matter.
 - › Joseph had family he didn’t need to be sharing his dreams with. His brothers wanted to kill him over it!
- **Some people are Dream Thieves**
- Negativity can cause dreams and vision to leak right out.
 - › Some people want your dreams to be lowered to their own Personal Comfort Zone. God doesn’t shrink His dreams to meet the size of our circumstances!!
- **Some people are Dream Igniters**
 - › These people light something up in me—people with the gift of Faith that just believe Big Time!
- **Some people are Dream Builders.**
- These people take dreams and clarify them, so we can run with it and see it happen! Dream Builders help you work on the Dream. It takes energy and effort, but the right dream should get you moving. It should produce some work in you.
 - › Your dream will be a fantasy if you don’t have dream-building friends in your life. The Bible says, “*Hope deferred makes the heart sick.*” It means, “I had a dream and it’s not coming to pass – and now I’m suffering a bit of depression.”

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:10

Q5. What dreams are you pursuing?

- Some of you may be working hard but on the wrong things. They may not be bad things, but they’re not God-honoring things. Spend your energy where it counts.

Q6. Do you struggle with any challenges in pursuing God’s dreams in your life? For example:

- › You don’t feel good enough to pursue God’s dream for you.
- › You’re too young or too old, too messed up, made too many mistakes, too far off the path. But God can redeem your scars to be your biggest ministry.
- There’s rarely a straight line between having the dream and seeing it happen.

CHALLENGE: Leaders, share a moment or a season where you faced or maybe even still struggle with feeling not good enough (or too _____) to pursue God’s dream for you, and what has helped you overcome that.

- **OPTIONAL PRAYER ACTIVATION:** Share the following: God can help us in our struggles and speak His truth to us where we believe lies. How do we know we are believing lies? By what we're carrying, such as feeling stuck, held back by our past, fear, shame, anger, anxiety, depression, addictive patterns, control, or what we talked about today: Dreams—what may be holding you back from pursuing God's dream. There is a root to these things. God wants to show you the root, and He will speak His truth into it. Truth then transforms us. How does He do this? We must first get out of the way and give Him room to move.
 - › Pray: "Jesus, we invite You to identify anything any of us have been struggling with or are currently facing that is keeping us from pursuing Your dream for me." (pause)
 - › "Ask God to show you when you felt or experienced that before. Let God show you what was happening from His perspective." (pause)
 - › "Invite the Holy Spirit to help you identify any lie you may have believed. You can quietly pray, "God, what did I believe about myself or You that made me feel this way?" (pause)
 - › You may lead them in a prayer like this one: "Lord what do you want me to know about what I believed? Where were You in this memory and what do You want to do about it?" (pause)
 - › Continue leading them in a prayer like this one: "Lord, forgive me for believing this lie and for allowing it to shape my life. I come out of agreement with it, in Jesus' Name." Encourage them to ask Jesus to revisit the memory with them.
 - › Lastly, invite them to share what they experienced, if they want to and are comfortable with it.

TAKE PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAY OVER NEEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS