

LIFE Group Leader Handout

March 17, 2019

Joshua, Pastor Steve Bayne

Scripture--Joshua 1:1-9

“After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, ² “Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. ⁵ No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success[a] wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Main Idea—

As Joshua led the Israelites to a place of victory and joy, our Lord Jesus Christ leads us also to that special place as we yield to and obey Him.

Application—

Is life at times very difficult for you? Do you think you are spending more time in the wilderness of defeat or the land of victory?

Where do you think God wants you to spend more time, in which place?

What is God teaching us in chapter one of Joshua that we can incorporate into our lives today?

What first steps can I take? (be specific).

Who can I share my struggles with?

Icebreakers and Beyond

By Dan Lentz

A true icebreaker question is an open-ended question that is used at the beginning of the group's discussion time. Not only is a good icebreaker open-ended, meaning it does not have a right or wrong answer, but the person answering the question will be the expert when it comes to the topic of the icebreaker question. Another critical characteristic of an icebreaker is that everyone should be encouraged to answer. It is not optional. The leader should answer first to model the type and length of response desired. Then, go around the circle; if someone wants to pass, let them, but remember the question should be safe enough so that anyone could feel comfortable answering.

The icebreaker question and resulting life-sharing time is critical because it helps the group "level the playing field" and warms people's hearts and minds to discuss God's truth. However, if we cannot make the connection between our life stories and God's truth, then we have lost some of the power that life in Christian community offers. If we talk about ourselves and talk about the Bible, but never make the connection between the two, then life transformation does not happen.

So the question is: How do we create a life changing intersection between sharing our own life experiences and studying God's Word? How can we steer those icebreaker questions and responses so they help people make the intersection between the truth about their lives and the truth about God?

Intentionally select an icebreaker that connects with the biblical truth that you plan to talk about during your group meeting. Then, during your Bible study, ask follow-up questions that connect the icebreaker (life story) to the truth of Scripture (Bible study) you are discussing.

Jesus was a master at using this technique in His teaching. He started with questions about common life and moved to questions about life transformation. Let's look at some examples:

Scripture Reference	Jesus' Icebreaker	Jesus' Follow-up Truth Questions
<i>Matt. 20:21 (Jesus talking to James, John and their mother)</i>	<i>"What is it that you want to have most?" Modern paraphrase: What goals do you have for your life?</i>	<i>"Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" Modern paraphrase: Do you really want what God wants? And, have you counted the cost?</i>
<i>Matt. 16:28 (Jesus talking to the twelve)</i>	<i>"Who do other people say the Son of Man is?" Modern paraphrase: What spiritually-related news headline has gotten your attention recently?</i>	<i>"Who do you say I am?" Modern paraphrase: Is the "word on the street" and the world influencing you more than God is influencing you? Who is Jesus becoming to you?</i>
<i>Mark 6:38 (Jesus talking to the 12 before feeding the 5000)</i>	<i>"How many loaves of bread do you have?" Modern paraphrase: Do you ever feel like there are things you should do but lack the resources to accomplish them?</i>	<i>"Do you believe I can feed my people?" Modern paraphrase: Is your faith grounded in the quantity of physical resources you have or in God's provision?</i>
<i>Luke 24:17 (Jesus talking with 2 followers along the road to Emmaus)</i>	<i>"What are you discussing together as you walk along?" Modern paraphrase: What difficult conversation have you had recently?</i>	<i>"Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" Modern paraphrase: Can you see how the life trials and problems you have described are opportunities for God to work out His glorious plan in your life?</i>
<i>Luke 10:26 (Jesus talking to a group of seekers)</i>	<i>"What is written in the Law?" Modern paraphrase: What absolute truth have you been convicted of recently?</i>	<i>"How do you read it?" Modern paraphrase: What is God telling you to do because of knowing this truth?</i>