

GLC Home Group Leader's Guide – 2010

January 17, 2010 "Devotions"

Italicized text gives direction and explanation to the leader.
Bolded text indicates a question to pose to the whole group.

Connected to Each Other (10 minutes).....

The purpose of the following questions is twofold:

- 1. To foster an atmosphere of discussion among your group members early in the meeting, so that members are more likely to answer deeper questions later on.*
- 2. To build community among the members of your group by sharing personal experiences, opinions, dreams, etc.*

- **What is your favorite non-Scriptural quote?**
- **Which Scripture verse is your favorite? Why is this verse important to you?**

Read the following verse to your group, encouraging members with Bibles to look it up and read along. Challenge your group members to commit this verse to memory in the coming week.

Memory Verse

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

-Hebrews 4:12 NIV

Growing Together (40 minutes).....

Explain to your group that you are about to watch several short video teachings on different types of devotions, and that there will be a time of discussion after each segment.

Watch Pastor Joy's intro and Larry Bogle's teaching now.

After the teaching on personal devotions, ask your home group the following questions. Challenge group members to truly think about each question and avoid simple, surface answers.

After reading Hebrews 4:12, Larry poses the question, "If God's word is so important and so powerful, why would we not want to read it on a consistent basis?" **How would you answer this question?**

Larry referred to reading God's word as a discipline. Discipline can be defined as "training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character" (Merriam-Webster.com). **In light of this definition, how is Bible reading (devotions) a discipline?**

In what ways must we discipline ourselves to read God's word?

Read James 1:22-25.

What does your life look like when you spend time reading God's word, but are only a hearer of that Word? What does your life look like when you are both a hearer and a doer?

Larry stated that he spends one hour each day reading God's word. **Keeping in mind that we need to be doers and not just hearers of the Word, what would be an appropriate amount of time for you to commit to spending in God's Word each day?**

Watch Ken and Diane Pierce's teaching now.

Read Matthew 18:19-20

What hindrances keep you and your spouse from agreeing with one another in prayer? What are things you have done (or can do) to aide you and your spouse in praying together?

The Pierces gave several suggestions for couple's devotional times. Thinking of your own experience with couple's devotions, what suggestions could you add?

Diane mentioned that sometimes one spouse is a morning person, while the other is a night person. **What time of day will work best for you and your spouse to *consistently* come together for devotions?**

Watch Jose and Maribella Lopez's teaching now.

What approach did your own parents take to family devotions? What portions of that approach would you like to continue with your own children? What portions would you like to change?

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9

What stands out to you about Moses' instruction to the Israelites regarding how they were to teach their children?

The Lopez's suggested incorporating devotions into your meal and travel times. **How does this line up with Moses' instructions? What other regularly occurring events could be utilized for family devotions?**

Read Proverbs 22:6

What role can a family devotional time play in training up children in the way they should go?

What role do grandparents play in passing on faith to their grandchildren? What specific actions should they take to help raise Christian grandchildren?

Taking Action.....

Ask each member of your group to make a commitment to concentrate on at least one area of his or her devotional life over the next 21 days. Perhaps there is someone who needs to begin having a consistent personal devotional time, join their spouse in devotions, or begin leading their children in a time of Bible study and prayer.

Have each member write down at least one step they can take today to improve on their current devotional life. Ask each member to share.



Prayer is a vital part of your Home Group. Take a moment to ask the Holy Spirit to empower the members of your group as they seek to grown in their devotional lives. Pray that they, their spouses, and their children will learn to be doers and hearers of the word.