

Lesson 2

One Thing

A 7-Week Study Guide

Share about a time when you lost something that was important to you ... it could be a toy you lost as a kid, an item you misplaced but then found, etc. What lessons did you learn from the experience?

Hey Life Group Leaders! Welcome to Week 2 and the start of our new Life Group Video Series, "One Thing!" We hope that this series will be uplifting, challenging, and help you find your next step in your journey with God!

This week, you have six questions coming up based on the video lesson this week! Remember that these Leader Notes are to serve as a guide for further and deepening conversation with your Life Group, not as the answers! Enjoy this week's discussion and always remember to ask an extra question such as "Why do you believe that?" to draw out some more conversation from your group members!

To start of this lesson, this is a very simple "get to know you" question with a great opportunity for your whole group to share. It may help if you, as the leader, are transparent and willing to share. This can be a fun way to share stories and learn more about the people in your group.

What gives you comfort and security in life? How do you cope with difficult seasons in life? Who or what do you turn to?

This is another opportunity for everyone to share. Some answers may include family and friends, education, knowledge of scripture, money and stuff, a good paying job, a home and food, the love of God, knowing that heaven awaits after death, etc. Everyone will have differing answers and perspectives. Remember, no snap judgment or quick fixes.

Read Matthew 19:16-22. What are your impressions of this young man? Do you admire any of his qualities? Do you feel sorry for him? Can you relate with him? Why or why not?

Matthew 19:16-22 reads, "Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

"Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments."

"Which ones?" he inquired.

Jesus replied, "'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,' and

'love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth."

This is another opportunity for everyone to share their impressions of the man in this story. He seems super confident of his answers, knowing he's been a good man on paper anyways. He also seems to want to be exalted before this rabbi, Jesus, and his followers. What about this young man seems positive, and what seems negative to you? Everyone will have differing answers and perspectives. Remember, no snap judgment or quick fixes.

To live on nothing but faith, especially in today's cultural climate, is scary and very foreign. Some may claim that they would do it in a heartbeat if they really felt like God was asking them to do it. And some may actually do that very thing. What would be the purpose of it? Why was this such a big deal for the young man? What was Jesus' point to him and everyone listening to the exchange?

Christian Attention Deficit Disorder was mentioned in the lesson. To put that idea in the form of a question: What keeps you from surrendering all of your attentions, affections, and desires to Jesus? What keeps you from surrendering that one habit or that one thing to Jesus? What are you afraid of losing?

This is another opportunity for everyone in the group to share their thoughts and possible struggles with this concept of surrender.

Some answers may include that the concept is scary! For many people, they've grown up and been taught that surrender is not an option. It is very caught up in the pride and ego of many people. There is a big fear of losing face or position of influence in certain areas of life that we hold dear. Any tarnish to that reputation is very negative. Some people would rather move out of the area or change churches rather than let people that they know into those secret areas of life that have been hidden for many years.

5. What could you gain if you surrender _____ in your life so you can grow closer to Jesus?

For any answer to this blank, there is freedom in not hiding. There is a weight of the shoulders of someone who has been covering up their shame and guilt. It is a heavy burden to carry. God's only intention is to relieve us of that guilt and shame, allowing us the freedom to live a life more abundantly (John 10:10).

How do your decisions and actions show others that Jesus, salvation, the church, and unbelievers are important to you?

They will know you are my followers by how you love them (John 13:34-35). Jesus taught this concept over and over again. Most of his ministry was based on relationships and how we treat each other. The Sermon on the Mount is mainly targeting relationships to people and/or God. How we live matters! Followers of Jesus can live a life that brings people close to God or drives them away. How do you want to be known?

As was said in the lesson, you need to empty yourself of yourself? What's one next step you can take that will help you surrender something that might be holding you back from Jesus?

To close this lesson up for this week, this is a good opportunity for everyone to share something that they learned or a next step in their walk with Jesus. No answer is the perfect answer as many will have a varied next step. Remember, no snap judgments or quick fixes.

Take a few minutes to:

- Write down one personal takeaway from this lesson.
- Now, write about how this takeaway could be applied to your life.
- Finally, if you're comfortable doing so, share your takeaway and life application with the group.

If you have a chance to give the group time to do this exercise, it would be good ... but don't feel pressure to rush through the other questions (if you're having healthy discussion) to do this exercise. If you run out of time but still want to take part in this exercise one idea is for group members to do this on their own time during the week and share what they've written with other group members via email or text.