

Lesson 5

One Thing

A 7-Week Study Guide

Are you someone who usually procrastinates or likes to prepare?

Hey Life Group Leaders! Welcome to Week 5 as we continue with our new Life Group Video Series, "One Thing!" We hope that this series continue to 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.

Jesus is returning. What thoughts or feelings do you have when you hear or read that sentence?

This is another opportunity for everyone to share. Some answers may include that they are scared because it is such an unknown as to what exactly is going to happen. There are so many interpretations of Jesus' second coming, some that spark major fear! Some may not be worried at all, or may even be very excited about Jesus' return. Everyone will have differing answers and perspectives. Remember, no snap judgment or quick fixes.

Read 1 John 4:18. Why do you think some Christians fear Jesus's return even though the event is actually a promise that fulfills God's love?

1 John 4:18 reads, *"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."*

It may be that we truly don't understand the full extent of God's love for us ... for me ... It's hard to believe that God would love such a messed-up person and we think we deserve punishment. We definitely do, but that is not God's intention for us. It's to love us unconditionally. Our faith in that love drives away the fear if we let God truly love us.

According to 2 Peter 3:8-9, why is God patient with people? How can you be more patient with others as God is patient with you?

2 Peter 3:8-9 reads, *"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."*

According to this passage, God is patient with us because he does not want anyone to perish but have everyone come to repentance. His patience with us is a clear example of how we are to care for others. Especially those more difficult people in our lives. How many times have we turned away from God and how many times has he welcomed us back? For me, it's a lot!! That teaches me a few things about how I am to respond to people, even when it's difficult and I don't want to.

Read 2 Peter 3:10-12. How are you living with heavenly intentionality? In other words, how is Christ's imminent return impacting your decisions, thoughts, views, attitude, treatment of others, etc.?

2 Peter 3:10-12 reads, *"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat."*

This is another opportunity for everyone to share. If we are honest, some of us don't live in a manner that is affected by Christ's imminent return. Many don't even think about it. Some are overly concerned and fear creeps in. It may be a fine line, but clearly, we must live in a way that glorifies God in all that we think, do, and say. Everyone will have differing answers and perspectives. Encourage honesty, and talk through the thought process that people are employing. Remember, no snap judgment or quick fixes, but it's perfectly fine to ask "Why?" and "Where do you find that in Scripture ...?"

Read Hebrews 13:21. What good things God has equipped you with so you can live for Him and His will?

Hebrews 13:21 reads, “equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

There are many variations to this answer. This is a personal question that everyone should be able to answer to some degree. Some people may be apprehensive to share that God has equipped them. Be encouraging as your group members share.

What is one thing you can do or remember so you can live with more heavenly intentionality?

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.