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**TCTC 2022
Small Group
Material**

Session 1: "Leave"

Core teaching passages:

Philippians 2:6-8 ; 3:2-3 ; 3:7-9

Main word focus:

PRIDE

Review from Chris' Message:

- 1) Intro - the testimony of others to Jesus, John the Baptist being the megaphone : John 1:10-14, 17, 18
- 2) The sacrifice and humanity of Jesus : Isaiah 53:3 ; Luke 23:32-43
- 3) Paul's conversion : Acts 9:15, 16
- 4) Our chains, prisoners set to be free : Chris' life story

Questions:

1. At this moment, is there anything you cling to in your life for reassurance, or to find confidence in other than God? Who is that, or what is that?
2. Explain in your own words what the word, HUMBLE, means. Is there an example you can share or a personal experience that describes HUMBLE in your life? Talk about how the word PRIDE and HUMBLE relate to one another and/or how they are different from one another. Can you have PRIDE and still be HUMBLE? Why or why not?

3. What do you think it means to "LEAVE", and consider everything a loss for the sake of knowing Christ? Think about the things in your life that you value. There are examples that you might relate to such as academics; popularity; your giftedness in sports, drama, music; parents' socioeconomic status. Whatever your "everything" is, does it or do these things define you? What would happen to your worth if these "privileges" were no longer a part of your life?
4. Is it possible to refocus your "everything" and use those "privileges" to serve Christ rather than give them all up? Could you actually keep these things? If so, what would that look like? If not, what would it take for you to give that all up? Discuss what it means to gain Christ and consider everything else worthless? (Philippians 3:8).
5. Reflect upon the word, EFFORT. It's one thing to make a good EFFORT and another to "perform" for that sense of value, or success. Talk about these two extremes for a moment. Then, consider what it means to worship in the Spirit? Is there a difference between being involved in church activities and learning what it is to simply be a Christian? What does it mean to be religious for Jesus versus having a relationship with Jesus? Are you guilty of "performing" for others to value you or to see you as something you are not?

Group Activity:

Youth Minister Note: You will NEED to make preparations BEFORE the event to do this activity! For this activity you will need a poster board and some magazines, newspapers or other things they can cut pictures out of.

Ask your students to consider the things that they cling to for confidence other than Christ, and the things that they value. Have them look through the magazines, newspapers, etc you brought with you to cut out pictures that represent these things.

Create a collage using these pictures. Find a place in your youth room to display this.

Use this as a reminder to not let these things take Christ's place in our life.

**Note: If you cannot collect or transport enough magazines, newspapers, etc with you to TCTC - get creative in making an alternative piece of art representing these things.*

Session 2: "One"

Core teaching passages:

Philippians 1:15-18 ; 1:27 ; 2:1-5 ; 2:14-15 ; 3:15-16

Main word focus:

INDIVIDUAL

Review from Chris' Message:

- 1) There is a purpose to our circumstances and story :
Philippians 1:12-14, 1 Corinthians 1:27-29
- 2) There is a reason why we are called to love : Colossians
3:12-15
- 3) There is a hope when we are not noticed, but seen :
Ephesians 5:15-20, Acts 16:25-34
- 4) Bible story about Paul and Silas in prison
- 5) Concluding thought - Salt and a city on a hill : Matthew
5:13-16

Questions:

1. The apostle Paul was in a prison. The speaker's disability used to be his prison. Do you ever feel that your life is in a prison even though you are not behind bars? Can you share what that is?

2. Have you ever “used” God only to get what you want from Him? If so, give an example. The book of Philippians talks about being a message by the way you live. Perception can mean more than you realize. For example, if you say that you are a Christian, would people know that you are by how you are living that out? What needs to change about that? What needs to stay the same?

3. You have probably heard people talking about making a “good impression”. Is this different than trying to impress your peers? Discuss why or why not. What does it mean to look out for the interests of others? Can you give an example?

4. Consider thinking about the word, CONTAGIOUS, in a positive way. What can your attitude and joy offer to the world around you as a positive influence for others? What are some examples you can give for somebody who is reflecting Christ? Are people seeing these examples in you? Why or why not?

Group Activity:

What does it mean to *lose* your individual self? To begin to answer this, think about who you don't get along with, how you ignore and may be mean to them. Talk about how what we learned today can encourage you to get along with them and to find ways to stand together as ONE?

Give students a note card and have them write down the name of the person they were thinking about. Ask them to spend the

next several minutes praying for that person and for their attitude towards them. Then challenge your students to do the following:

- Pray specifically and intentionally for that person each day over the next week. When praying, ask God to show them some ways they can be intentional in showing kindness towards them.

- Choose someone to hold them accountable for how they treat this person and others around them.

- Committing to showing them a selfless act of kindness to let them know that you care.

Session 3: “Struggle”

Core teaching passages:

Philippians 1:9-11 ; 1:20-26 ; 1:28-30 ; 3:10-14 ; 4:12-14

Main word focus:

LIVE

Review from Chris’ Message:

- 1) Consistent in finding ways to show love : 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- 2) Pursuing the impossible, exercising your faith : Mark 4:30-32, Hebrews 11:1, 6
- 3) The unwavering motion of action : James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 5:6-11
- 4) Concluding thought - the treasure in our fragile jars : 2 Corinthians 4:7-12, 16-18

Questions:

1. What does being “filled with the fruit of your salvation” mean? Look at Galatians 5:22- 23. From the list of words about the fruit of the Spirit, which one are you the best with living out the most? Which one word do you struggle with living out the most? Can you explain why?

2. How is Christ working in you an encouragement for others to witness? Think about the word - CONTAGIOUS - again. Is it possible that your example to live is what God is using, and nobody else, to impact somebody? How does that HUMBLE you? How does that free you in your own struggles?
3. Can you describe what having "relentless love, faith, and action" means? How does that relate to our theme, LOSE? Talk about what you GAIN if you actually live for Christ? Why isn't this type of gain considered to be selfish or prideful?
4. Why is it considered a "privilege" to suffer for Christ? Is it comforting knowing that people around you are continuing to work through their struggles, and it's not just you? Why do you suppose we struggle with insecurities? What does this have to do with the word, LIVE?
5. Share with one another about what it means "to press onward" because of the trials we face. Is there freedom when you think about not living in the past, but perhaps having a new sense of purpose as you leave TCTC? What does it mean to participate in following Jesus versus being a spectator to who He is?

GROUP Activity:

Christ calls us to be known by our love, but in our modern context, most people know Christians by what we are against. They know all about the things we disagree with, don't believe, think are sinful, etc. But do they know us for our love?

As a group, discuss some ways you can live out the love of Christ in your community. Some ways that you can show the love of Christ to your neighbors, classmates, and strangers you share a town with!

Make a plan to live this out! From your list of ideas, start actively planning to make them happen.

**Note: You could also come up with ways to encourage your students to live the love of Christ towards others on your way home from TCTC - how they treat people at the restaurant, walking around Gatlinburg, etc!*