

ALL IN OWNERSHIP – LIFE Group Study Guide

Ownership

Pastor Miles McPherson Nov 13, 2016

This week, Pastor Miles gave the 4th message of "All In Ownership" series. He began with comments on the recent elections. The devil is smart; smarter than us, but not smarter than God. The enemy wants to divide us and is being very successful. Most churches are very segregated; the Rock is an exception. God loves EVERYONE, and heaven will be filled with people who on Earth looked different, who had different backgrounds and life experiences. As citizens of heaven here on Earth (Phil 3:20), there is no place for hate and rhetoric. The Bible calls for us to obey the laws as long as they do not cause us to disobey God. It will be a test of faith in next months. Pray for and encourage others and our leaders. God calls on us to promote the Gospel, not a political party or a candidate.

The message today focused on 1 Timothy ch 6 about being content with our things and circumstances. Can we trust God and let go of things of the world? Pastor Miles prayed to set us free of any greediness, selfishness, and 'me-isms'. Instead of being filled with those worldly things, we ask God to fill us instead with Spirit of God, and His peace.

Opening Discussion:

Have everyone sit back and relax. Then have them close their eyes. Ask everyone to imagine they are seated in church on a Sunday. Tell them the pastor comes out and announces what the message or sermon will be aboutmoney. Have everyone share: what is your FIRST response or reaction to that?

Leader Note: Suggest asking the members to keep answers to just a few words.

Did anyone get tense? Why?

Why does the sermon topic of money create such a reaction?

Opening Questions:

1. **READ:** 1 Tim 6:6-12

Have everybody give examples of things (activities/behaviors/possessions) that are perceived to improve the quality of our lives, but in reality do not give us the peace of God.

Leader note: These responses can be put on a large sheet or board as members provide inputs.

At the end, point out that, as Pastor Miles said: only God can improve the quality of your life.

2. Refer to 1 Tim 6:6-12 What does it look like when someone is pursuing something that holds us in bondage? Perhaps it is money, clothes, furniture, shoes, spending, an addiction, fantasy football, Xbox / PlayStation or social media.

How long can you go without your smart phone?

Where is their focus compared to where it should be?

What is difference between being generous versus greedy?

Going Deeper: This can be in either the whole group or groups of 2 or 3.

3. Share: Who is the person you have (or have in the past) the most trouble with loving?

What lead to a change of heart?

or what is making it hard to be loving to them?

Compliment those who have experienced a change of heart.

4. ACTIVITY:

Pass out a 3x5 or similar card or 1/2 sheet of paper and a pen/pencil to each member.

Have everyone pair off in twos.

Take a moment to pray and ask God what is He telling you that you are holding on to that is having a negative effect on your relationship(s) with God or others.

Now write that down on the card/paper and fold it in half.

Decide which partner goes first.

Have the first partner hold on tightly to the piece of paper/card and the other partner tries to take it away. Then if still holding onto it, let it go.

Now switch and the second partner holds on to their paper while the first tries to take it away.

This is an example of how we desire, or keep things which we really don't need.

How did it feel when the paper was taken away or you let go?

5. READ 1 Tim 6:9. The word "snare" in the original Greek language implies 'unexpectedly, suddenly entangled or caught unawares'. It is something that brings peril, loss, destruction.

What are some of the snares we face in today's world?



Hints: greed, selfishness with time, lusting for others, resources, money.

How specifically can we help a brother or sister out of one of these snares?

What it looks like to pursue God with passion?

How can you use your time, life, resources, and wisdom better?

6. READ 1 Tim 6:6. The word "contentment" in the original Greek language means:
a perfect condition of life in which no aid or support is needed.

What are some of the things blocking our contentment?

What are some things you seek to aid or support yourself?

7. READ Mark 8:36. This is the verse Pastor Marcus (Pt Loma campus pastor) used at the tithes and offerings part of the service.

What does that verse mean to you?

How can we put that verse into action?

Take it home

Pray about how you can serve and support. Go through your closets. What can you do without? What can you do more of? How can you be relieved of greed?

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