



One Degree, Part 1
“One Big Question”
August 25/26, 2018

Opening Questions (what God is doing in your life?)

- What are you thankful for this week? (Good focus for worship & prayer)
- What is a challenge you're facing? How can our group help? (Guides your group members into caring community)

Accountability Questions (these questions follow up from the previous week; see Bible Discovery and Outreach questions below)

- How were you able to put into practice what the Lord taught you last week (your “I will...” statement)?
- Were you able to have a spiritual conversation this past week with someone who doesn't yet know the Lord? How did it go?

Discovery Questions (hear *and* put into practice—Matthew 7:24)

Sermon notes and [Mark 15:1-20](#)

- As you attempt to follow Jesus more faithfully, which of these struggles do you identify with:
 - Like Pontius Pilate, wanting to satisfy the crowd
 - Like Herod, admiring Jesus but not worshiping Him
 - Like the Mob, replacing Him—wanting someone or something more than Him.
- When Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, he could have asked his Father for 12 legions of angels to deliver him, and God would have sent them, but he didn't ([Matthew 26:53](#)). When Jesus was questioned by Pontius Pilate, he could have defended himself, but he didn't ([Mark 15:5](#)). When Jesus was crucified, he had the power to save himself and come down from the cross, but he didn't ([Mark 15:31-32](#)). Talk about why he didn't.
- Jesus said, “**Freely you have received; freely give**” (Mt. 10:8). To the degree we have received grace, forgiveness, mercy, and God's love we are able to give grace, forgiveness, mercy, and God's love. How will each of you intentionally put yourself in a position to receive more of what Jesus died to give us? Try to respond with things that are specific, doable, and measurable. If you keep a journal, write it down and review periodically.
- Does giving what you've received change your view of evangelism? How?

- How will you respond and put into practice what you've heard from God? Share an "I will..." statement with your group.

Outreach Questions

- Do you have unbelievers in your life that you would like to see come to Jesus? What are their names?
- What is your plan to pray for them, care for them, and share part of your story with them as you have opportunity?
- What is the next step?
- When is your group's next community service? Check out [crosscitylifegroups.com>Resources>SERVE Experience Opportunities & Descriptions](http://www.crosscitylifegroups.com/serve-experience-opportunities-descriptions.pdf) (clickable link: <http://www.crosscitylifegroups.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/SERVE-Experience-Opportunities-Descriptions.pdf>) for ways to serve together in a relational ministry. Debrief together about what God was doing in you and in the people you served.

Bible Study Tools: In addition to a good **study Bible** (examples: NIV Study Bible, NLT Study Bible, Life Application Study Bible in NIV or NLT), here are some free online resources to help you better understand the Bible:

- <https://www.biblegateway.com>. Many translations can be viewed in side-by-side columns; includes word searches, commentaries, and Bible dictionaries.
- <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>. Searches, commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and an interlinear Bible (shows Hebrew or Greek alongside English, allows you to study the meaning of the original words).
- Yes, you can "**Google**" your questions, but there is a mix of good and bad online. Look for results from the above sights plus biblehub.com, biblestudytools.com, studylight.org, and bible.org. If you're not sure about what you're reading, ask one of our pastors or a Christian friend you trust. Many advisors bring success (Proverbs 15:22, NLT)!

Daily Devotion (Bible reading, Prayer, Journaling): Encourage group members to engage with the Bible 4 or more times each week. Recent studies have shown that this is the most important factor in ongoing transformation. Options:

- Crawl: Verse of the day from YouVersion or BibleGateway Bible Apps.
- Walk: Short reading plans from YouVersion Bible App.
- Run: **Life Journal** (includes reading plan, daily pages, table of contents to track entries, prayer list). Available at <http://www.lifejournal.cc/>.

CALENDAR (3 terms per year: Fall, Winter, Spring)

- Week 1: Discussion Guide
- Week 2: Discussion Guide
- Week 3: Prayer Experience (using provided guide)
- Week 4: Discussion Guide

- Week 5: Strongholds discussion/prayer (using provided guide)
- Week 6: Serve Experience: see Outreach Questions above
- Week 7: Discussion Guide
- Week 8: Discussion Guide
- Week 9: Discussion Guide
- Week 10: Celebration: share the biggest thing God has done in your life over these 10 weeks, affirm and pray a blessing over each other, share communion.