

junior high winter weekend 2012



God Heart Way Life

small group discussion guide for youth groups

ONE God

Friday PM



*For thus says the LORD,
who created the heavens (he is God!),
who formed the earth and made it
(he established it;
he did not create it empty,
he formed it to be inhabited!):
"I am the LORD, and there is no other."
(Isaiah 45:18 ESV)*

Questions

1. What does it mean to be "it" when you play games? (the person in charge, the person who gets to go first, the person who gets to make the rules, the person who chases others etc)
2. When you play games, do you like to be "it"? What is your favorite way to decide who is "it"? Which is your least favorite way? (probably when someone decides for you!)
3. What happens when EVERYONE wants to be "it"? What happens when NO ONE wants to be "it"? (There is chaos, arguments, fighting, the game is no fun, no one wants to play...)
4. Being "it" usually means you are the person in charge. The Bible clearly teaches us that God is IT, He is in charge of everything and everyone. How do you feel about that? Does that make you comfortable or uncomfortable?
5. What happens when we decide to play by our own rules?
6. Think about ways that we make up our own rules rather than follow God's rules. If it helps, think in terms of what we would *rather* do when faced with choices to follow God:
 - a. At home
 - b. At school
 - c. With our friends
 - d. With our faith

ONE Heart

Saturday AM



*And he said to him,
"You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your mind.*

This is the great and first commandment.

*And a second is like it:
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

*On these two commandments depend
all the Law and the Prophets."*

(Matthew 22:37-40 ESV)

Questions

1. The game UNO is played until a player has one card left in their hand and they need to let everyone know. How do they do let others know? (They shout!) Why do they shout and not whisper? Why do they not keep their UNO card a secret?
2. We have ONE God and we are to love him with ALL our heart and ALL our soul and ALL our mind. This means we should not have divided hearts, souls or minds. What do you think it means to have divided hearts, souls and minds?
3. Can love for God be divided? Do you think it is possible to really love God and love the world?
4. Why do you think that Jesus made such a strong connection between loving God and loving our neighbors?
5. Can you love God and not love your neighbor? Who is your neighbor? (if you have time and it helps, look at the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37)
6. What are some practical ways you can love your neighbor?

ONE Way Saturday PM



*The thief comes only to
steal and kill and destroy.
I came that they may have life
and have it abundantly.
(John 10:10 ESV)*

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way,
and the truth,
and the life.
No one comes to the Father
except through me.
(John 14:6 ESV)*

Questions

The object of the board game "Mouse Trap" is to build a trap and then capture all of your opponents' mice using a crank to set the trap into motion. In 2 Timothy 2:26, Paul talks to Timothy about the devil using the words "snare" or trap and "being captured."

1. How frustrating is it when you are playing a game and you know that someone is "out to get you?" Why is it frustrating? What do they do to make you lose? (cheat, lie, get others to gang up on you to get you out sooner...)
2. Would you rather play with someone who is trying to help you win or someone who is trying to help you lose? Why?
3. Satan has a single purpose. Jesus said that the thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy. What destroys us and kills us? Read Romans 3:23 and the first part of Romans 6:23. What do these verses tell us about sin? (we all are sinners and we deserve death)
4. Jesus came for a single purpose: to give us life...abundant life. What does "abundant" mean? (plentiful, more than enough, full) Now read Romans 3:24 and the last part of Romans 6:23. What do these verses tell us about what Jesus has done? (we are justified – declared innocent because of Jesus' gift and we are redeemed – bought with a price of his blood for us, a gift for us)
5. Question for thought: have you received the gift of life from Jesus or are you still believing the lie of Satan and still in his trap?

***Leaders: Tonight is a great opportunity to pray with your students who may have never received Christ. It is also a great time to pray together thanking God for your students who have received Christ. Don't be too quick to move past this opportunity!



*But as for you, O man of God,
flee these things.
Pursue righteousness,
godliness, faith, love,
steadfastness, gentleness.
Fight the good fight of the faith.
Take hold of the eternal life
to which you were called
and about which you made the good confession
in the presence of many witnesses.
(1 Timothy 6:11-12 ESV)*

Questions

The word "pursue" means to follow, to chase, to run after, to put into practice and to work at...

The word "trivial" means unimportant, insignificant, minor and small...

1. Think about all the things people pursue in life. Name some of them. (education, careers, money, success power, fame, happiness) Which ones are important and which things are trivial?
2. What does it take to pursue the things you want in life? (commitment, sacrifice, hard work, investing time and money...)
3. If you are going to run after the things of God, what things will you have to run away from?
4. Do you think this will be easy or hard? (Clue: Paul told Timothy to "fight") What will you have to fight? (the influences of the world, temptations of the devil and the desires of your own flesh)
5. What are some practical things you can do to help you fight the good fight of faith?