



Discussion Guide

January 25, 2015



Discussion Questions	Leader Notes
<p>Understand or Understood Habit #5 in The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey states, "Seek first to understand, then to be understood." One cannot help but assume that Stephen borrowed a bit of this wisdom he passes on from James. James, whose letter in the New Testament most resembles Proverbs, shares some very practical advice to help followers of Christ combat the selfishness that so easy sets in. Covey borrows this wisdom and encourages his reader to seek to "walk a mile" in the shoes of another and understand their point of view before insisting they understand yours.</p>	<p>Before you begin today, think of a time in your life when you did the opposite of Covey Habit #5? Be willing to share with your group.</p> <p>The first step to leading good discussion is getting several people involved in the discussion by asking non-threatening questions that will engage the whole group and get everyone thinking about the same thing.</p>
<p>Discussion Kick Off</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell of a time in your life when words came out of your mouth and before they reached the ear of another, you wanted to reel them back in? What led you to speak, then think? 2. Now, think about the opposite. What is the most SELFLESS thing you've ever done? 	<p>"The world does not need a definition of religion as much as it needs a demonstration." -Martin Luther</p>
<p>Evaluate It</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the benefits of being quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry for you and those around you? 2. Who has the ability to deceive you the easiest? Answer: Yourself. Why? 3. James ends this passage by stating that genuine religion is caring for widows and orphans. Why do you think he chose widows and orphans? Who do they represent? 4. When you hear the words of James 1:19-27, what underlying issue do you think James is seeking to resolve among the Christians of the first century? 5. James repeats three things in this passage: listening, controlling our speech and being deceived. How does Adam and Eve's fruit experience demonstrate how to fail at all three of James' warnings? What underlying motivator led them down this path? 	<p>Read James 1:19-27. Make it more interesting by reading from the Message version (free on the You Version Bible App).</p> <p>Help with #5 Listened to Satan who told them what they wanted to hear, not truth and if you listen to lies long enough, you are deceived. As soon as God found them hiding, Adam started selling out Eve. If you want to be like God, don't listen to the one who tells you just what you want to hear.</p>
<p>Make It Personal</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. According to Stephen Kendrick, the author of the <i>Love Dare</i>, "Almost every sinful action ever committed can be traced back to a selfish motive. It is a trait we hate in other people but justify in ourselves." How can our sinful action be traced back to a sinful motive? What would be a good example of this? 2. How can slowing to take an honest assessment of ourselves increase our listening to God's Word and putting His Word into action? 3. The best way to fight selfishness in our lives is to serve others. Who are the widows and orphans (literally and figuratively) in your life who could use a helping hand from you? 	<p>It's easy to talk about what impact the sermon has on others, but we need to evaluate the impact it has on us as individuals.</p>
<p>Take It Home Listen to the words of the Great Emancipator. If these words applied in 1863, how much more do they apply now?</p> <p>In a speech made in 1863, Abraham Lincoln said, "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand, which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us."</p>	<p>At the end of the discussion take a moment to take prayer requests from the group (if you haven't done so) and pray for your group before you end your time together.</p>

Starting a Table or Life Group? Take a look at the helpful information below.

Who establishes and makes up a table or life group?

1. Husband & Wife
2. Family
3. 2-5 Guys
4. 2-5 Ladies
5. 2-5 Couples

Where do they meet?

1. Kitchen table
2. Coffee table
3. Cafe table
4. Restaurant table
5. Picnic table
6. Work table
7. Round table

- Meeting (how often, how long): Weekly or bi-weekly (day and time is decided by the group). No more than 2 hours.
- Who should lead a table or life group? Leadership can be shared or the group may choose a leader.
- How long should the group stay together? The group should commit to stay together 6-8 weeks. Groups can renew their commitment to meet together at the end of that time, but initially groups should stay together 6-8 weeks.
- What happens if the group is too big to meet around a table? No table or life group should have more than 15 individuals. If a group grows to have more than 15 participants, there are two options:
 - Multiply into separate tables (groups of less than 15) or
 - Seek to establish a life group (10-20 participants)
- If you have any questions or would like to establish a life group, please contact Jason Fox at 270-765-4994 or jason@fcctown.com.

If you would like to talk with a minister,
call 270-765-4994 to set up an appointment or contact:

Stuart Jones stuart@fcctown.com Senior Minister
Chris Kiger chris@fcctown.com Student Minister
Jason Fox jason@fcctown.com Small Group Minister

Doug Mitchell doug@fcctown.com Connections Minister
Tim Hurd tim@fcctown.com Children's Minister
Shannon Smith Shannon@fcctown.com Assistant Children's Director