

How To Hold One

Small Group Material

June 4th, 2017

Leader Guide

Bottom Line: *We hold onto hope when we are connected together and anchored in Jesus.*

Study Verses: *Deuteronomy 6:1-2, Hebrews 6:16-19, 1 Timothy 1:18-19*

Define The Win: *Participants would understand the importance of having a legacy mindset and empowering in the next generation. They would reflect on how they are investing in those that are behind them and what they are doing with the hope they've been given in Christ. Group members would look for ways to leverage their time, talent and energy into supporting and encouraging the next generation.*

Key Points

- *We reach people one person at a time.*
- *The family matters because of its legacy.*
- *We aim to empower the family and shoulder the struggle.*
- *The family is established so our children's children will know God as God.*
- *An anchor provides stability and security regardless of the circumstances.*
- *The rope is what connects the next generation to the hope they need. The rope is the relational connection to the church.*
- *The most important thing we've been given is hope.*
- *The emphasis of God's work is generational in nature.*
- *We set the bar too low if our objective is to just raise low-maintenance, fully functional kids.*
- *The next generation matters to God so they must matter to us.*

- *As a church who reflects the love of Christ, we must possess a relentless commitment to the generations that come after us.*
- *Every child needs someone to fight for them and with them.*
- *There are opportunities out there for us as a church to impact the next generation. We've got to go out there and seize them.*

ENCOUNTER

- **Think back to your childhood and adolescence. How did you navigate trying to find security, purpose and hope during this time?**
- **How would you describe the climate and culture our children are growing up in now? What are some challenges they face that are similar to what you experienced? What added pressure are they now under?**
- **What are the implications of our mission (to reach people and help them walk with God) on the next generation? What does it look like to actively invest in the next generation by empowering the family?**

FORMATION

- **Read Deuteronomy 6:1-2. What is the purpose of the family? What danger arises when the family structure is eroded?**
- **Read Hebrews 6:16-19. How does the hope of the Gospel provide an anchor of stability for the next generation?**
- **Read 1 Timothy 1:18-19. After reading this passage, what conclusions can we reach about the battle young people are facing if Paul is encouraging his young protege (Timothy) to "fight the good fight" and "hold on to his faith"?**

EXPRESSION

- **Other than your parents, who had the most influence in your life growing up? How did they shape you into the person you are today? How can you thank them for their investment in you?**
- **What are you doing to invest in the next generation? Who are you investing in?**
- **If you had the opportunity to speak to the next generation, what would you want them to know and why would you want them to hear that message?**

LEADER INSIGHT: *There is a very personal element to one's walk with God. This can't be denied. The creator of the universe is crafting each of our stories. He*

wants to transform our heart and character to reflect His own. God desires for us to trust Him in every aspect of our life.

Yet, we miss the mark if we foolishly believe our faith is all about us: our needs, our comfort, and our sufficiency. The call of Christ is for each one of us to serve, give back and invest in others. The blessings of God we've experienced weren't meant to be held on to tightly, but rather to be shared and given away.

Deep down inside, each one of us wants to give our lives to something bigger than ourselves. This desire can be met by looking backwards. As a church who reflects the love of Christ, we must possess a relentless commitment to the generations that come after us. The next generation matters to God so they must matter to us.

A legacy mindset should be a defining marker of our community. The culture we are nurturing within PC3, as well as outside its walls, is one where a body of believers rallies around and encourages the family. The family matters because of its legacy. It was established so that our children's children will know God as God. The emphasis of God's work is generational in nature.

But, families can't do it on their own. Raising, supporting and encouraging the next generation was never intended to be a solo mission placed on the parent's shoulders. Every parent needs someone saying the same things they are saying to their children. We aim to empower the family and shoulder their struggle.

Imagine if every toddler, child, tween, adolescent or college student that encountered PC3 heard a chorus of people telling them of the potential they struggle to see in themselves. The message of them being valued in God's eyes would ring out and maybe alter the course of not just one child's life, but an entire generation's. Instead of being bombarded by a culture that feeds them lie after lie, these young people would encounter a different way to fullness and peace.

Young people find themselves in a battle over their heart and mind. As they try and figure out who they are and what they believe, they will wrestle, struggle, fail and doubt. The pressure to conform is greater than it has ever been. It takes a great deal of courage for a young person to stand out and be different while standing firm in their faith.

The next generation are in troubled waters. They are getting tossed back and forth and are looking for anything or anyone to bring them to safety. Some are barely keeping their head above water. What they need is for someone to throw them a rope that's tied to something secure and trustworthy. They need an anchor to provide them stability and security regardless of the circumstances they face. The hope of the Gospel provides an anchor for their soul. The rope, the relational connection to the church, is what connects the next generation to this hope.

In the midst of their faith journey, they are hoping others will come alongside them and point them in the right direction. To put it simply, every child needs someone to fight for them and with them. Leadership, the ability to influence, is a profoundly human gift that is inside each one of us. The choice to lead and to impact is up to us. We hold onto hope when we are connected together and anchored in Jesus.

There are opportunities out there for us as a church to impact the next generation. We've just got to go out there and seize them. However, it will be impossible to be the most influential voice in the lives of young people unless we all are engaged and willing to invest. Someone else needs to hear from you. We reach people one person at a time.