

Wednesday Night Huddles: Teacher Guide

Reminders from a Widow's Life

Pre-Huddle Information for Huddle Leaders to Study and meditate on:

- Read and pray about 1 Timothy 5:3-16.
- I know what you are thinking...how are we going to equate Widows to teenagers...
- Before you read my thoughts on this verse, go back to bullet one and read it for yourself. Then, see what information you can add to what the Holy Spirit is saying to me in these verses.
 - In 1 Timothy 5:3-16, Paul is writing a letter to Timothy, explaining to him how the church needs to take care of widows. He uses the terms real widows and widows/young widows. The difference between these two is mainly their age and if they have someone that can look after him. By writing this, Paul is outlining for the church how the congregation should take care of widows, how believers should take care of their own family members who are widows first, so the church doesn't have to be "burdened" by caring for them alone, and he outlines who qualifies as a widow the church looks after. During these times, widows that were at the age of around 60 were added to a list. This list was a list of who the church needed to look after and take care of. Women during that time didn't have much authority or ownership of things, so after their husbands had passed, they were a bit "helpless". This may seem like a random chapter, but there is a little of nugget of information that I think teenagers can learn from. It is in verses 9-10 when Paul discusses who is qualified to be on the list of widows. In these verses, he says that a widow should be well reported for good works (or should have done these things). He starts off with the fact that she needs to have brought up children, but the nugget of information lies after that:
 1. If she has lodged strangers/showed hospitality
 2. If she has washed the saint's feet
 3. If she has relieved the afflicted/helping those in trouble
 4. If she has followed every good work
 - Now, that may not seem too interesting, but let's dig in a bit deeper.
 1. If she has lodged strangers/showed hospitality
 - From this, we learn to have an attitude of hospitality
 2. If she has washed the saint's feet
 - From this, we learn to have a servant heart
 3. If she has relieved the afflicted/helping those in trouble
 - From this, we can learn to give aid/help to those facing adversity (difficulties/misfortune)
 4. If she has followed every followed every good work/devoted herself to continuing good deeds
 - From this, we learn to have a commitment to serving others and the church.

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Peaks and Valleys

- What is a peak of your week (good thing; how did you see God working in your life this week) what is a valley of your week (a struggle or difficulty)

Prayer

- Prayer Requests?
- Pray together.

Lesson

1. Have the students **read 1 Timothy 5:3-10**. Remind them that it is a strange verse, but there are some lessons in it as with the case with all scripture. You just have to pay attention.
 - Also, remind the students to bring their bibles to class if they haven't tonight.
2. **Question 1: What is a widow?**
3. Now direct the student's attention to the verses of what an "acceptable widow" has done and let them know that there are life lessons to be learned from these widows.
 - If she shows hospitality
 - If she has washed the saint's feet
 - If she has helped those in trouble
 - If she has devoted herself to all types of good deeds/continuing the good work
4. **Question 2: What does it mean that she is acceptable if she has shown hospitality?**
 - Discuss how this reminds us to have an attitude of hospitality.
 - Ask them to define hospitality: friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers.
 - Ask in what ways can we be hospitable in the Youth Group and at school.
 - Discuss visitors coming to church. Inviting them to youth group. Sitting and making those visitors feel welcomed. Greeting other's visitors/friends.
 - Discuss "outcasts" at school without friends and how to have an attitude of hospitality towards them.
 - Talk about some reservations the students may have about talking to guests and "outcast" students at school. May be scared, shy, etc.
 - Remind them how shy they would be if they went somewhere new and didn't know anyone or didn't have any friends. Ask them how they would want to be treated.
 - Add any information that you have or that the Holy Spirit is placing on your heart to share.
5. **Question 3: What does it mean that she is acceptable if she has "washed servant's feet."**
 - **Ask what is a servant?** a person who performs duties for others, especially a person employed in a house on domestic duties or as a personal attendant.
 - Discuss about servants in new testament culture and how they had jobs of washing feet.
 - You can even talk about how Jesus washed his disciples' feet to show his humility and how he didn't think he was better than anyone.
 - Discuss how this reminds us to have a servant heart

- Ask the students to define pride, talk about the difference between pride and confidence, and talk about the qualities/personality of a prideful person:
 - Share how the prideful person:
 - never says they're wrong
 - doesn't accept input, but goes at everything alone.
 - Gets angry when taking advice/correction.
 - doesn't take others into account.
 - craves public and/or private recognition for the works they've done.
- Talk and ask about how being prideful can cause others to not want to be around you.
- Talk about how a servant looks at others needs rather than their own.
 - How can this be applied to a life as a Christian?

6. Question 4: What does it mean that she is acceptable if she has helped those in trouble?

- Share some synonyms of trouble: afflicted, burdened, going through difficulty, have stressful situations
- Discuss how this reminds us to give help and encouragement to those in difficult times.
- Ask them if they know of someone in difficulty and ask them to share ways with each other of how to help those in difficulty. Add your thoughts as well.

7. Question 5: What does it mean that she is acceptable if she has devoted herself to all kinds of good deeds?

- Discuss how this reminds us to have a commitment to serving...the church, one another, unbelievers etc.
- Ask students how this week they will have a commitment to serving those in need. Discuss your own plans to help serve others.

- 8. Give each student a "Reminders from a Widow's Life" card (will be provided on wed. night).

Closing Prayer