

II. Group discussion *Each number below includes a set of questions that relate to the scripture text. I offer a few answers, but your perspective may be better. The point is to discuss, not to get 100% agreement. Rule of thumb: the fewer questions you ask, the better. Save time for “the big question.”*

Read II Kings 7:3-15 aloud.

To prepare, read 6:24-7:20 so you can set the story in context for the group, but the discussion focuses on the middle section only.

1. What do you know about these four men from verse 3?

They were lepers living just inside the city gate, and they were hungry.

What motivated them to surrender to the Aramean army?

Hunger – no other choice.

What did they find in the Aramean camp?

2. What was the lepers' first response to their amazing find?

How is this like our response when we discover the joy of new life in Christ?

3. Once these four men had stocked up, what motivated them to spread the news in Samaria?

Why do Christians “forget” to go back and share the great news of Jesus with those who need it?

From the perspective of those watching in Heaven, how do you think it looks when Christians forget to mention Jesus?

4. What are some ways that you can use your influence to introduce non-Christians to Jesus?

What would motivate you to be more intentional about sharing Jesus with non-Christians?

5. How could our group help one another be more focused on evangelism...

At the church building? *Wear name tags, greet guests.*

As a group? *Host a party, pray for the lost, empty chair.*

In the community?

What role could prayer play in our reaching out to friends?

6. How are our non-Christian friends like the people of ancient Samaria? In what sense are they starving?

How seriously do we take this thought – do we believe that non-Christian friends are truly lost?

One challenge to outreach is that we build more friendships with Christians than with non-Christians. How well does that describe your situation?

Why should we invest in friendships with non-Christians? How is that different from treating them like prospects or customers?

† **The big question** *If you ask only one question, let this be it. Allow at least 20 minutes. Go around the circle and give each person an opportunity to answer. It's okay if they pass, but at least they get a chance to respond.*

Imagine that you are visiting with a non-Christian friend who says, “So tell me why you’re so involved with your church. Why do you spend so much time there?”

How would you answer?

III. Other resources

The point – Once we were starving, but now we have found the good food! Let's go tell our starving friends.

Prayer ideas

Pray for non-Christians by name. Ask God to bless them.
Pray for opportunities to talk about Jesus with non-Christians.
Thank God for the people who told you the story of Jesus.

Ask God to guide our congregation through the process of discerning whom he has prepared to preach at College Hills.

Kid-friendly activity. *An activity designed to help kids and adults grow in faith together. Do this first, then dismiss the kids so the adults can talk.*

Set up a treasure hunt. Maybe a map with multiple instructions taking them through crazy places. Set it up so that the treasure is hidden in the room where you plan to meet.

When the kids find the treasure (candy?), enjoy it together.

When was a time you received an unexpected blessing?

Explain the situation in II Kings 7 – intense suffering & starvation due to a military siege by the Arameans.

Read II Kings 7:3-16 aloud and ask the kids to re-tell this story in their own words.

How are we like those starving lepers?

What are some blessings we have found in Jesus?

Who are some people you know who do not follow Jesus?

How could we help them find the treasure of following Jesus?



September 9, 2007

LIFE Group Guide

II Kings 7 – Time to fish

By John Grant (jgrant@collegehills.org)

The theme: Telling the great news.

This guide looks at Go Fish session 6 and the delightful story from II Kings 7. Hopefully, II Kings 7 is familiar because it was a LG text in July 2006. It's such a powerful story that I decided to return to it, with Andy Stanley's thoughts included.

I love to hear your stories about what's going on in your group (good or bad), so pass them along. Our ministry is making a powerful difference in many lives!

Leadership tip: Watch the lobby! Watch the lobby! Watch the lobby! Somebody who would benefit from your group walks through the College Hills lobby every Sunday morning. Meet them and invite them – your group will be blessed and so will the newcomer. And please wear your gold tag to help guests remember your name.

I. Relate *Use a few to introduce the theme, check everyone's spiritual pulse, and "break the ice." No right or wrong answers – maybe goofy but not wrong! Look for opportunities to affirm and encourage through these questions.*

- ❖ What is your favorite sport to watch? To play?
- ❖ When have you received an unexpected blessing?
- ❖ What have you misplaced recently?