



Welcome to the second week of our new series: “All In.” Before we begin, I want to remind everyone that next week (November 11-17) will be the last week for Growth Groups until January. We encourage every group to get together during December to have some fun together and/or to do a local service project for the holidays. Take some time to talk and plan something . . . Now, let’s go ALL IN:

- **Would you consider yourself more of a leader of a follower? Why?**
  
- **Do you think you influence people? How?**
  
- **How would you define the connection between leadership and influence?**
  
- **Read 1 Timothy 2:1-6.**
  - ◆ **What does this passage teach us about God’s focus on disconnected people?**
  
  - ◆ **What does this passage teach us about our spiritual lives in relation to disconnected people?**
  
  - ◆ **What does this passage teach us about prayer and reaching disconnected people?**
  
- **Read 1 Timothy 4:15-16. What does this passage teach us about how to influence people with truth?**
  
- **What steps can you take to increase your focus on disconnected people?**
  
- **What areas of your personal growth can you improve this week?**
  
- **Who are you praying for?**



Hey Growth Group Leaders!

Can you believe it? We're starting to wind down the Growth Groups for the fall. Please be sure to take some time and get something scheduled for your group in December. I suggest trying to get a little service project together somewhere in the community this holiday season. I would also suggest eating out or having a little party together.

We will have Growth Groups this week and next week, but we will be taking off from Thanksgiving through the new year.

There are folks at Journey who need to get involved in a Growth Group. There is room in all of our groups to get more people involved. Remember the Empty Chair illustration. Let's take advantage of the month off to recruit and invite new people into each of our groups in January. Encourage all of your group members to join in the effort.

Have a great week! I look forward to your feedback.

Andrew

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Primary Lessons for the week:

1. Everyone has the potential to influence somebody. Leadership IS influence.
2. Growing Personally in relationship to God and Praying for others increases our influence with disconnected people.

Keep these lessons in mind as you go through the discussion . . . Try to get done early enough to spend some time praying BY NAME for disconnected friends and relatives.

- **Would you consider yourself more of a leader of a follower? Why?**

This is simply an ice-breaker question to help start the conversation. Enjoy the discussion as you prepare to move on. You may think about including some follow-up questions to lead into the next question about INFLUENCE.

- **Do you think you influence people? How?**

The challenge with this question is to help people realize that they have some level of influence with the people around them. Whether they admit to being a leader or not, encourage them to talk about how they can influence the people around them.

As you go through this question, begin to connect the ability to influence people to the ability to lead people. Our goal is to help people "own" the responsibility to LEAD people to Jesus as they INFLUENCE them.

- **How would you define the connection between leadership and influence?**

As Eric said in Sunday, John Maxwell says *Leadership IS Influence*. The idea is that if you have an ability to influence somebody's ideas, actions, or attitudes, you are in some way leading them. You may not have some "official" position over them, but you have an ability to lead them.

As we begin to understand our ability to lead by influencing the people around us, we are now ready to move into the biblical responsibility to influence people toward a relationship with Jesus Christ.

- Read *1 Timothy 2:1-6*.
  - ◆ **What does this passage teach us about God's focus on disconnected people?**

*Verse 4* clearly states that God desires all people to come to know Him. Additionally, *verse 6* reminds us that Christ Jesus was so focused on reaching the disconnected that he gave himself as a ransom for all.

As you discuss around this question, try not to feed the answers but try to get folks to find these answers themselves as you look at the passage.

As you move into the next question, try to bridge the conversation between God's desires and our desires.

- ◆ **What does this passage teach us about our spiritual lives in relation to disconnected people?**

The goal of this question is to help people acknowledge that the way they live their lives is a major factor in their effectiveness in INFLUENCING them to follow Christ.

*Verse 2* gives us a pretty good picture of the type of reputation Christ followers should have in order to INFLUENCE the people around them. You may also want to introduce *1 Peter 2:12* to them as support for the idea of our lifestyle speaking louder than our words.

- ◆ **What does this passage teach us about prayer and reaching disconnected people?**

*Verses 1 & 3* tell us that we should be praying in all sorts of ways for the people around us, and when we do, it pleases God. Additionally, *Romans 10:1-4* gives an example of Paul's prayers for the Jews to be saved, and how their understanding of the Truth was keeping them from being saved.

- Read *1 Timothy 4:15-16*. **What does this passage teach us about how to influence people with truth?**

The primary truths we see in this passage are:

- ◆ Put into practice the things you know, and be devoted to doing so.
- ◆ Be open and honest – allow other people to see your struggles and your progress.
- ◆ The result will be your own growth and seeing those around you connected to Jesus.

Enjoy the conversation, but be sure these three points are discussed as you move along.

These last three questions are our application questions for the week. These three application points are directly from Eric's message. Hopefully your folks are already thinking in this direction. Take some time to formulate some realistic, measurable goals. Also, try to save some time to pray BY NAME for disconnected friends.

- **What steps can you take to increase your focus on disconnected people?**
- **What areas of your personal growth can you improve this week?**
- **Who are you praying for?**