

## LG The Purple Hoodie Winter Week 8 3/4/18 Leader Guide

To prepare for this week's meeting, take some time to focus on these questions and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great meeting as you come together to connect with and encourage one another to grow and to see God work!

### Getting to Know You

1.) Think of examples of communities coming together to support others in need. What is your favorite? **This can be a movie or book, etc., but try to get people to give life examples as that will be more the direction we are headed for the rest of the group.**

2.) Do you feel you currently have deep-rooted relationships in your life? How would you define a deep-rooted relationship, and what makes you think you do or do not have one? **It is week 8 and hopefully the group is ready for blunt, straight-forward questions. We want people to be able to say if they have this or not because it is critically important for all of us to have relationships like this, and hopefully our groups are places where we develop those types of relationships. This question will be a great judge to see how your group is doing and if people are really connecting. If people do not have this with your group, please do not get discouraged and just move on. Call out the importance of it and ask the group what they think it would take to get the group to that point, and then make a plan of how the group will achieve that.**

3.) Kathi talked about the significance of our inner relationship with God influencing our relationships with others, using the rotted out tree example. How do you see the correlation between the two in your life? **Try to get people to give tangible answers so the correlation is clear, move past the hypothetical and push for stories from daily life.**

4.) Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

### Into the Bible

5.) Read Ephesians 3:16-19. Paul knelt before the Father and asked that "out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith." What does that verse mean? Do you feel you have that strength? **This can be tough to put into words but we want people to reveal a bit of the condition of their soul and whether or not they really feel the strength of the Holy Spirit there.**

6.) Paul's prayer continued, asking God that others would "know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge so that you may be filled with the fullness of God." Do you personally "know" that love of Christ? If so, share with your group when and how you first experienced it. **This probably has to be connected to life stories to really come to life, times where knowledge and understanding do no justice to the overwhelming everything and the peace of being full of God and the love of Christ. This question may lead to a life change moment for some, realizing**

they want that and do not yet have it, so please be on the lookout for signals that someone may be realizing that they want that relationship and love and do not yet have it. If the opportunity presents itself, by all means grab their hand and walk them into the kingdom of heaven. If you have people in mind as you read this, please take some time to pray for them and ask others to join you in that.

7.) To live out Paul's prayer that "you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God," share with your group a time when you felt deeply loved by God so that they can rejoice with you in the depth and width of His love. We will never be able to express all the love of God but we want to paint this picture as big as we can with the group we have. We really just want people to celebrate their specific ways in which they have felt flooded with God's love in order to celebrate that and also to display even more of God's love to others in the group.

### **Application**

8.) What relationship(s) that you currently have would you like to deepen? What steps can you take this week to try to go deeper, keeping in mind that we impress with our strengths but connect in our weakness. We want people to think through who they want a deeper relationship with and how they might get there, with the reminder that trying to impress usually will not work but vulnerability will.

9.) How much do you think your being truly known by others is up to you, and how much is up to them? What can you do to allow others to get to know you better? What can you do to get to know others better? We sometimes need a reminder that people can only know as much of ourselves as we choose to reveal. We want to make sure people remember that being rooted and belonging is a two-way street and it is often up to us, not the other as much. Then we want to figure out some next steps we can take.