

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Message Series: Life Hacks for Tough Times & Rough Relationships
Message Title: Boasting
Speaker: Kevin Myers
Date: November 22-23, 2014

Icebreaker:

Did you make plans for Thanksgiving? What are/your plans? Have you ever had a holiday that didn't happen as planned?

Message Overview:

Today's message is the seventh in the series LIFE HACKS. Life hacks are free or inexpensive tips and tricks to make your life simpler and easier (see series promo: <http://vimeo.com/108359527>). The Bible is full of practical ways that we can improve our lives. This week, Pastor Kevin Myers (PK) shared a lesson from the Book of James about boasting.

The two life truths things we need to know:

What is unknown; your future. (Only God knows the future.)

What is known; you are fragile. (Only God has all power.)

- ... so when you get these wrong, you are pretending to be GOD...

The three life hacks that we need to do:

1. Give credit where it's due.
2. Pray through work plans.
3. Talk like you are dying vs. divine.

Discussion:

(Leaders: The questions that follow are designed to stir reflection and discussion on this week's primary message points. Please read through them prior to your meeting, so you can be prepared to prayerfully pace your group well. And remember, as leader, your goal is to promote increased *biblical* awareness, as well as individual *self* awareness – a combination that with the help of the Holy Spirit, results in revelation and...transformation!)

- Read James 4:13. James tells us not to say, "In my future, today, tomorrow – I will do this or that." PK used the example of the six feet of snow that fell in Western New York, changing the

plans of an entire region. Do you think any of them were planning to spend the night in Walmart? Did the Buffalo Bills plan to be in their own stadium playing football? Could they make that happen?

- Read James 4:13-15. We can make plans, we just can't make them happen. James doesn't tell us not to make plans; but not to exclude God from our plans. He quoted John MacArthur's breakdown of verse 13. We can think that we are on our (1) own time (today or tomorrow), (2) own direction (we will go), (3) own location (this or that city), (4) own enterprise (carry on business), and (5) own goal (make money). This is all unknown, but you can start to think that you are your own man or own woman, and that you own the business – on your own. Have you ever felt like you were on your own to make something happen?
- PK drew the consequences of excluding God from your plans on the whiteboard: Talk the Lie, Believe the Lie, Boast the Lie, Live the Lie, Die without God. Does this seem extreme? Do you think it sounds extreme because we forget that we are fragile? James 4:14 reminds us that we are just a mist. 150,000 people die every day. We have a 100% chance of dying. Do you ever struggle with living your life with a focus on the fact that you do not have control over your plans, or even over your own life?
- Read James 4:15-16. PK said we are all at risk of raising our fragile greatness above God's forever greatness. This week's Life Hacks focused on what we need to do to remind us of what we know: our fragility. The Life Hacks this week, the things we need to do, are first give credit where it is due. Read James 1:17. How does this verse help us to remember who owns our business, and who owns us?
- The second Life Hack is to pray through work plans. When Jesus was asked who he was, he phrased it within the context of his God-given purpose. He came to seek and to save. Jesus took time to pray. Why? Because his purpose was to do what God wanted, and he couldn't do what God wanted unless he knew what God wanted, which he discovered through prayer. Because of the work of Christ on the cross, we can be just as intimate with our Father as Jesus was. How can you connect your daily work to God's wisdom? How can you plan your work with God? How can you give God control of the future?
- Read Philippians 4:6-8. If you have trouble giving over control, what does Scripture tell you to do? Did you send your business card to 12Stone to ask for prayer for God's favor? Have you committed to engaging in a new season of praying?

- The third Life Hack is to talk as if you are dying, versus as if you are divine. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. PK wrote on the whiteboard that you have two choices:

<u>Boast in Yourself</u>	<u>Boast in God</u>
Pride	Humble
Deny	Believe
Reject	Receive

- Did you pray either of these prayers this week?
God, my Father in Heaven, I confess that I have lived in sin against you. I know that my sin leads to eternal death. I am grateful that you love me. So, I humble myself before you. I ask you to forgive me by the sacrifice of Jesus. Come into my life and help me follow you as Lord. In Jesus name, Amen.

Is anyone in the group seeking employment? Pray for those in your group, and commit to pray for full employment among those at 12Stone.

Wrap-Up/Close:

- Did you make a commitment to
 - 1) give credit where credit is due,
 - 2) pray through work plans, and
 - 3) talk like you are dying vs. divine?

How can the group pray with you?

Throughout the Week: (Optional)

- Text your business card to (770) 574-6339 or email info to workprayer@12stone.com.
- Pray: "God for everyone who desires employment, would you give them a job? Supernaturally move things in heaven to move things on earth. No unemployment in our congregation."