



Small Group DVD Study Leader's Guide

These notes are designed to be used specifically as a companion to the Wake Up Small Group DVD Study by Ed Young. They are a combination of elements especially created to help you prepare for each week of that six week DVD curriculum.

Some elements are examples of answers you could expect for each question. Other elements are tips for how to maximize a particular question. Finally, there are creative ideas to enhance the experience of your small group.

Each week, watch the video portion of your study prior to your meeting. Also, read through that week's Leader's Guide prior to your meeting. This will prepare you to facilitate discussion.

Week 1—Sleeping in Church

1. What is an opportunity in your past that you “slept” through and wish you could now do differently?

Opportunities come in all shapes and sizes. Some people will wish they had taken advantage of opportunities they had in school or in their career. Others will look at opportunities presented in relationships that were missed.

Some missed opportunities will be as simple as missing the opportunity to go to a concert or sporting event. Other missed opportunities will be more difficult like decisions that change the path of a person’s future. While the opportunities are different from person to person, we all have experienced the regret of missing an opportunity.

Creative Idea: Play a game where everyone writes down something they use or do to help them fall asleep (i.e.: watch TV, read a book, turn a fan on, use a special pillow, etc.). Mix up all the slips of paper and read the sleep aids one at a time, trying to guess who uses what sleep aid.

2. What do you think are characteristics of someone who is awake to the amazing plan and purpose God has for their life?

Those who are awake to what God wants for their lives have a deep sense of purpose. They recognize their significance based on what God has created them to do. They have a thankfulness in their relationship with God that is unique and they recognize the importance of obedience to God.

3. How have you noticed yourself falling into the “do-stuff” track to please God?

It is amazing how easy it is to fall into the “do-stuff” track trying to please God. We can try to impress God with all the moral decisions we make. We can compare what we consider good decisions to bad decisions and to make sure our good outweighs our bad. We can also fall into the comparison game where we look at other people and compare their lives to ours. As long as our lives seem more put together than theirs, we can think we are pleasing God.

We can fall back into the “do-stuff” track. We can do the right things but with the wrong motivation. The time we spend praying and reading the Bible can be out of guilty obligation rather than out of a love for God. Going to church can become a habit instead of an eagerly awaited opportunity for worship.

4. Describe what led to you embracing what God has done for you and waking up to knowing God?

As you listen to people’s answers, notice how many of them describe the significance of a specific person in helping them embrace God. God has given us the great responsibility of playing a part in other people having a relationship with God. Finish your questions by discussing how they could play a part in others embracing God based on what others did to help them.

Week 2—Sleeping in Church Part 2

1. As a group, re-read Ephesians 5:14-17 and discuss what parts of this passage stand out to you.

The following are some parts of the passage that might stand out:

- “Be very careful” – we need to be cautious in our decisions. There is a real evil that desires for us to make unwise decisions.
- “making the most of every opportunity” – we can sleep through the opportunities God presents us or at least not maximize the opportunities. Also, we have a responsibility to capitalize on “every” opportunity God sends us and not just the ones we want to take advantage of.
- “foolish” vs. “the Lord’s will” – when we go against God’s will, it is foolishness.

2. What do you think are some of the things Satan uses to lull us to sleep?

Satan works in many ways to lull us to sleep. He can create so many distractions in our life that we sleep through the opportunities God has for us. Satan can make our relationship with God a passionless routine instead of a vibrant relationship. Satan can also put such doubt in our lives that we become paralyzed by fear when God presents an opportunity.

Creative Idea: Divide your group into teams and have them come up with their own lullabies based on what Satan uses to lull us to sleep. Let the teams share their lullabies with each other.

3. How have you experienced the law of the harvest in your relationship with God?

Help your group see the connection between what they sow into their relationship with God and what they reap. If we spend time communicating with God through prayer and Bible study, we will be able to more clearly understand God’s will in a difficult decision. When we share our faith with others, we will reap an excitement and passion about Jesus’ power. On the other hand, if we disobey God we can expect to reap the consequences.

Creative Idea: Set out different seeds in a display and let your group try to guess what is produced by each seed. Then, discuss how the type of seed we plant determines our harvest.

4. What are specific ways you can sow your talents, abilities and resources into the local church?

Everyone has something they can sow into the church. A person’s ability to lead could be used in more than their career. They could translate that into leading a small group or a team of volunteers in their church. Someone who has been blessed financially should give tithes and offerings to the church. There are many ways to take what God has blessed us with and use it in the church. The key is to gain the mindset that what God has given us is not just for our selfish consumption, but for God’s glory.

5. How could your small group sow into the church?

As a group, you could be intentional about caring for the needs of your neighborhood. You could be strategic by inviting people from your neighborhood to church. As a group, you could take on a volunteer need in the church and staff that need based on a rotation of your small group.

When you get creative, you will find that your small group has talented individuals who could come together and sow great resources into the church.

Week 3—Another Level

1. What are examples of things that have caused you to miss opportunities?

Missed opportunities happen for numerous reasons. It could be just one bad decision that causes someone to miss an opportunity. Or, it could be that they were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Laziness, apathy or a lack of wise counsel can also play a role in someone missing an opportunity.

2. How have you seen someone get replaced because they missed an opportunity?

Popular culture is full of examples of people getting replaced due to missed opportunities. Actors and actresses are at the top of their career until they decide to pass on a role in a movie. The next thing they know, someone else is the star of the silver screen instead of them. Athletes hold out for larger contracts instead of taking advantage of the opportunity they have, and before they know it they are replaced.

We can also see it in the lives around us. Someone in your business is given the opportunity to step up, but doesn't perform to the level expected. The next thing you know, someone else is getting the opportunity to step up. Or, someone in a relationship doesn't appreciate the other person and before they know it they are replaced.

Creative Idea: Put a chair at the front of the room. Seat someone in the chair and ask them trivia questions. If they answer the question correctly, they get to continue. If they answer incorrectly, they get replaced by whoever can answer the question correctly. The goal is to be the person who answers the most correct questions.

When God gives us an opportunity, we need to respond correctly to continue to get new opportunities.

3. What can you learn about opportunities that come from God based on the fact that God will raise up replacements?

Opportunities from God are valuable and should be treated as such. When God presents an opportunity, we need to be discerning to make sure we make the most of it. We can also learn that opportunities from God can be a way he measures our faithfulness. In Matthew 25, Jesus teaches that those who are faithful with the little that God has given them will be given more. So, it is important to God that we are faithful with even what we consider to be a little opportunity because it can lead to greater opportunities in the future.

4. What could be an opportunity God is offering you now?

- The opportunity could be in the form of a relationship.
- You might have the chance to help someone become a Christ-follower.
- The opportunity could be in your career where God is opening doors of influence for his glory or new levels of income so your generosity can increase.
- Or, discovering an ability you have could be an opportunity God is offering you.

Week 4—Unlimited Potential Week 1

1. At what point in your life, did you feel like you had the most potential?

Potential is a strange thing. It is a compliment when you are young (“She’s got a lot of potential.”) but it is more of an indictment when you get older (“He had a lot of potential, but...”). Potential means you have the ability to do something, but have not done it yet.

Because of the powerful God we serve, we all have great potential. The key is that we transform our potential into action. We want to make the most of the potential God has given us.

Creative Idea: Create a dessert that looks incredibly enticing. Display it so that the entire group can see it, but don’t let anyone try it. Describe how the dessert has the potential to be great, but until it is eaten (what it was created for) it only has potential. Then, pass out pieces of the dessert and talk about the value of living out the potential of what God created us to do.

2. How have you seen the right people in your life help you live out the potential God has given you?

There are some people who encourage us at key points in our lives. They may encourage us from a distance as we hear about their accomplishments or we may learn from what they have written. Other times we will be encouraged by someone close to us. It can be that right word spoken at just the right time, or their persistence to not give up on us. Whatever it is, their encouragement can be crucial in the story of reaching our potential.

3. Why do you think we fall for Satan’s temptations?

Satan has the ability to cleverly disguise his temptations so we don’t think about the full ramifications. Other times, Satan manipulates a desire we have by placing the object of our desire right in front of us. Satan is also known to flat out lie to us so that we give into a temptation.

Creative Idea: Bring an old pair of running shoes that can be written on with a permanent marker. Have your group read 1 Timothy 6:3-11 and 2 Timothy 2:22. Notice that there are certain things the author, Paul, tells Timothy to get away from and other things he tells Timothy to pursue. On one shoe, write down all the things Paul tells Timothy to get away from. On the other shoe, write the things Paul told Timothy to pursue.

When it comes to avoiding Satan temptations, there are certain things we need to move away from while at the same time moving towards the things of God.

4. How could you encourage someone else to live up to their God-given potential?

As you are discussing what you could do, challenge your group to think about someone specific they could encourage. Encourage them to tailor their answers for that specific person so they have a plan of application when they leave your group.

Week 5—Unlimited Potential Part 2

1. Take a minute as a group and read the story of Samson and Delilah (Judges 16:1-18)
2. What are some of Samson's bad choices you see in this story?
 - Samson went to Gaza which was a town of his enemies (v. 1)
 - Samson got together with a prostitute (v. 1)
 - Samson fell in love with a woman who was part of a people God told Samson's people not to marry (v. 4)
 - Samson played games instead of hiding the source of his strength (v. 7, 11 and 13)
 - Samson showed poor discernment about Delilah (v. 4-5)
 - Samson told the secret of his strength to Delilah (v. 17)
 - Samson showed arrogance by thinking he could outsmart Delilah while putting himself in dangerous positions with the Philistines
3. How have you seen a modern day example of sin blinding, binding and grinding?

Entertainment programs are full of modern day examples showing the consequences of sin. Politicians, celebrities and athletes form a parade of people trading in successful careers for a fall. We can also see the blinding, binding and grinding of sin around us. There are broken marriages, dysfunctional families, corrupt organizations, oppression, discrimination and more. All of these show the ill effects of sin.
4. What does Judges 16:28-30 teach you about God's forgiveness?

Samson suffered the consequences of his sin. God's forgiveness does not always exempt us from earthly consequences. However, when Samson repented, God restored his strength. This teaches us about the willingness of God to forgive us no matter how significant our sin.
5. What is an area of your life where you need to wake up and repent – so you can fulfill the great potential God has given you?

Creative Idea: Provide your group with paper and writing instruments for this question. Give them the opportunity to spread out and answer this question on their own. Encourage them to write out their sin and spend time asking God for forgiveness. You may finish your time together by sharing stories of God's forgiveness and restoration in your lives.

Week 6—Opportunity of a Lifetime

1. What have you done to deal with “scenario sickness” in your life?

Philippians 4:6-7 provides some clear application for dealing with “scenario sickness.” We are told to go to God in prayer, asking for what we need. On top of that, we are to thank him for what he has already provided. In this thankful conversation with God, we can find relief from “scenario sickness.”

2. Why do you think opposition accompanies opportunity?

There is a real enemy who does not want God’s will to be done. When God provides us with an opportunity, Satan attacks to prevent God’s will being done.

3. Tell the group a unique opportunity or aptitude you have. Then, let the group make suggestions for how you could use that in the church.

4. If you serve in the church, describe some of your experiences that encourage you to continue to serve.

Some are encouraged when they serve because they see the influence they are having on others either directly or hear the story of their contribution. Others are encouraged because they recognize how God has uniquely gifted them and see how that fits into God’s plan. And still others receive encouragement from being around others while they serve. The unified effort builds them up and keeps them encouraged.

5. How could you help those who are not serving find service opportunities in your church?

If there are individuals in your group who are not currently serving, help them during this time. You could bring flyers from your church that describe opportunities to serve. You could also direct them to studies that help them identify their abilities and connect those abilities with opportunities in the church.



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