

Here are some talking points to start using to get your group talking to each other and to start generating meaningful conversations. Remember, you want others to do most of the talking.

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. Which part of the message was most impactful to you and why?

Start Sharing & Talking About the Message. NOTE: Pastor Andy may not cover all points in all services.

Setting/Open: Every day we face spiritual warfare. The enemy is looking for a foothold in our lives. Most in the church are unaware of spiritual warfare, or don't want to be drawn into the battle. The setting is the last supper – Jesus with His disciples. Judas betrays Jesus; Jesus predicts that Peter will deny Jesus; and Jesus corrects the disciples on who is the greatest. Sifting defined: To examine thoroughly as to isolate that which is most important and useful; by inward agitation to try one's faith on the verge of overthrow.

1. What two visions for our lives must we choose between? **A.** Our own vision for our life and the vision Jesus has for our life.
2. What is so challenging & relevant for us when it comes to the betrayal of Jesus by Judas? **A.** Judas was an integral part of the ministry. He knew how to talk, act and blend in. **Application:** People may know OF God, but don't really know God. They look the part but have not been transformed.
3. Question: Are you willing to share a time in your life when you were severely tested? Did you see it coming? How did you react?
4. Contrast how the enemy and God use sifting (refer to sifting definition above). **A.** Spiritually, the enemy is trying to remove value, but God allows sifting to increase value. **Amos 9:9**
5. **Pastor Andy's Point #1:** God allows us to be sifted. Why? **A.** Because it grows us. **Point:** Service teaches us maturity and humility which are needed so we can use the spiritual gifts God gave us. Quote: *It's God's heart to give us the kingdom, but He has to prepare us for it.*
6. **V24** Who is the greatest? **A.** The one who serves/Jesus is the role model. (Review verses 25-30) Quote: *The world chews people up and spits them out, but God binds people up and sends them out.* Regarding service: Don't let passion & intensity rob you of stability and longevity in serving. Don't allow failures turn you in to a victim. **Proverbs 24:16**
7. **Pastor Andy's Point #2:** Jesus prays for us during the sifting. (verses 31-34) Discussion Point: Do we feel inadequate to serve God? **Point:** There is a price and a process to answer our call to service. **Quote:** *Anytime you see a revival of religion, you will see a revival of opposition.* Charles Spurgeon. **1Peter 4:12-16** Illustration verse: **Malachi 3:3** **Point:** Trials are not random; they are part of the process for our growth. **1Peter 5:8-11** Comfort: Jesus is praying for us. **Hebrew 7:25**
8. **Pastor Andy's Point #3:** We are sifted for boldness. (verses 36-38) Embrace the refinement of God in your life. **Point:** "Go slow to go fast." Build a solid foundation that will bear weight. During sifting, don't grow suspicious of God. Practical considerations: Be prepared, persecution is coming. Was Jesus saying having two swords was sufficient for the battle ahead? **A.** No; ours is a spiritual battle. In this battle we are to be bold. **Phil 3:12-14**
9. **Final Questions:** "Am I ignitable?" Are we willing to be sifted by God in order to fulfill the vision He has for our lives?

Check Prayer Requests, & pray. Talk to your group about (1) creating profiles on the Calvary App so your group can create a group chat on the app. Let Pastor Josh know so he can set your group up for you. (2) Encourage your group to read ahead. (3) Please remember to fill out the LIFEgroup meeting assessment form after your meeting. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/LIFEgroup-Assessment>

LIFEgroups

talk it over | week 2

discussion | study

Sifted for Boldness

Luke 22:24-38

Pastor Andy Knuth