



SESSION 12: Spiritual Conversations 2 & HHF Conclusion



-  You may decide to facilitate a whole-group discussion, divide into smaller groups, or pair people up to answer the session discussion questions.
-  You may have time to invite each pair or group to summarize their discussion for the whole group at the conclusion of discussion times. You may want to collect brainstormed activities on a whiteboard or easel pad.

DIGGING INTO GOD'S WORD

Reflect on the following based in John 10:10 and John 15:4-5

1. What **specific challenges** do I and my household members face in desiring abundant spiritual life rather than abundant worldly life?

2. How have I already experienced, or seen the potential to experience, **more abundant spiritual blessings** in my household from practicing the 3 habits of spiritual vibrancy?

3. Explain why **abiding in Jesus** rather than “trying harder” produces fruit/results for God’s kingdom:

4. How does participating in the **Lord’s Supper** relate to your practice of “engaging in spiritual conversations”?



EVALUATING - Prioritizing and Nurturing the Habit of “Engaging in Spiritual Conversations”

1. Who do I know that engages regularly and comfortably in spiritual conversations? Is there a way I can **spend more time** with him/her/them?

2. What **names or faces come to mind** that God's Spirit may be desiring to create some opportunities for me to engage in deeper conversation, including spiritual topics?

3. Where is **my household's starting point** for “engaging in spiritual conversations”?
A lighter fare, a steady diet, or a rich dessert? Why???

4. How can I encourage my Connection Group or household to be **committed to serving** with Emmanuel's Third Thursday, Senior Center Services, or International Friendship Center?

5. How can I and my household **continue strong** in practicing these 3 habits of spiritual vibrancy, and also encourage other households to practice them?



Households of Faith – Activities Guide

Engaging in Spiritual Conversations – Loud Tables

First steps - “Serve a lighter fare”:

- **Share a story** from your day... “This is what happened when _____.”
- Ask a question about a recent shared experience. “What did you think of the movie?”
- Invite another household member to join when you take your pet for a walk.
- Join a Bible study and participate in the discussion.
- At the dinner table, ask each household member to share a “high” and “low” from the day.
- Ask members of your household for their prayer requests... pray... and then follow up on prayers.
- Use driving time to sing songs or fill in blanks... “My favorite holiday is _____ because _____.”
- Read as a household some of the **questions in the Gospels that Jesus asked**, and talk about the answers... both the peoples’ answers and His own.

Next steps - “Provide a steady diet”:

- Pray each day for a week that God would create opportunities for conversation with your household members.
- Set a weekly household check-in time, where each members shares what they have going on in the coming week.
- Read “Helping Your Child Have Spiritual Conversations”, available at www.lhm.org/households.
- Take a **household hike**... with no screens allowed... and ask some prompting questions about God and His world and people.
- If your household goes to church together, eat a meal afterwards and talk about how God’s Word that was heard may impact your lives this week.
- At mealtimes or when driving, use some premade **conversation starter cards** to spur reflection and sharing. Some are available at www.lhm.org/households.
- Think of a “life blessing” Scripture verse for each member of your household, and share it with them personally.
- **Toss out “Why Questions”** whenever there is a time of sitting or waiting... “Why do we go to church? Why do we pray? Why do we believe in Jesus?”, etc.
- Take a member of your household out to eat, just the 2 of you, and see where the talk leads.

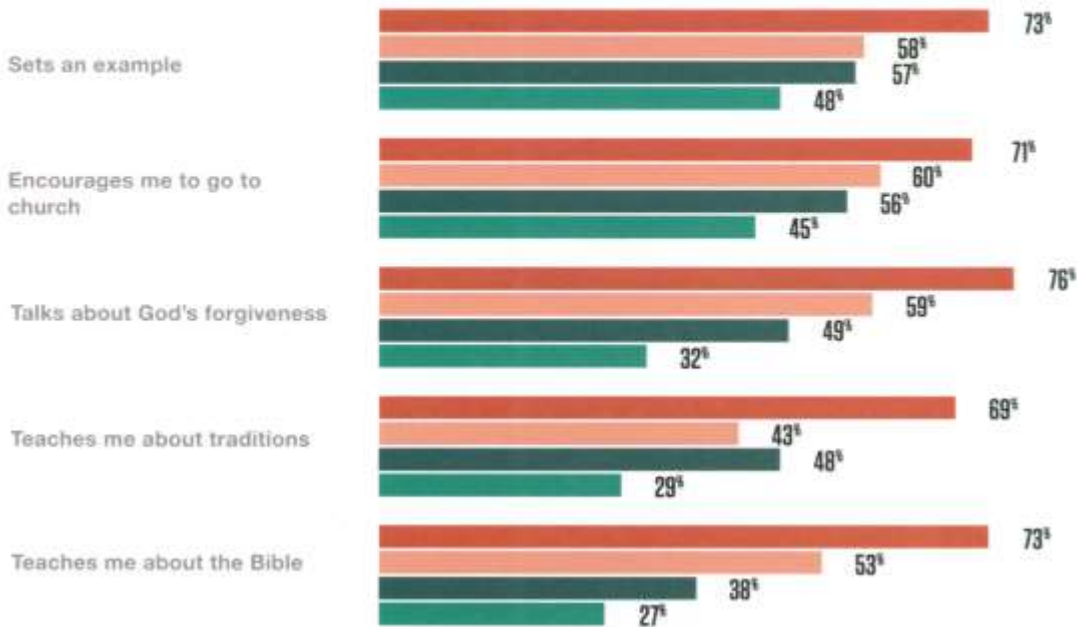
Out-of-the-Box steps - “Offer a rich dessert”:

- With your household and/or Connection Group, offer to help with one of ELC’s Gospel outreaches: **International Friendship Center, Third Thursday, or Senior Center Services**. Check with Randy & Karen or the church office for contact people facilitating these outreaches.
- Invite a spiritually mature Christian over for a meal and ask them to share about their faith and their stories of spiritual conversations.
- Go on an overnight trip with your household members and plan intentional time for relating together and sharing meaningful conversation.
- Schedule **weekly or monthly household meetings** with specific topics of household interest or concern. Allow all members to suggest topics. Use a “speaking stick/item” to pass around so each person receives focused time to share thoughts. Practice listening!
- Do a **craft-time together** where you each create a picture or poem or sculpture that represents your faith, or what God is doing in your life, etc. Share thoughts with each other.

Models of Faith & Spiritual Vibrancy

% indicates having a member of their household who does the following to share about their faith

● Vibrant ● Devotional ● Hospitable ● Dormant



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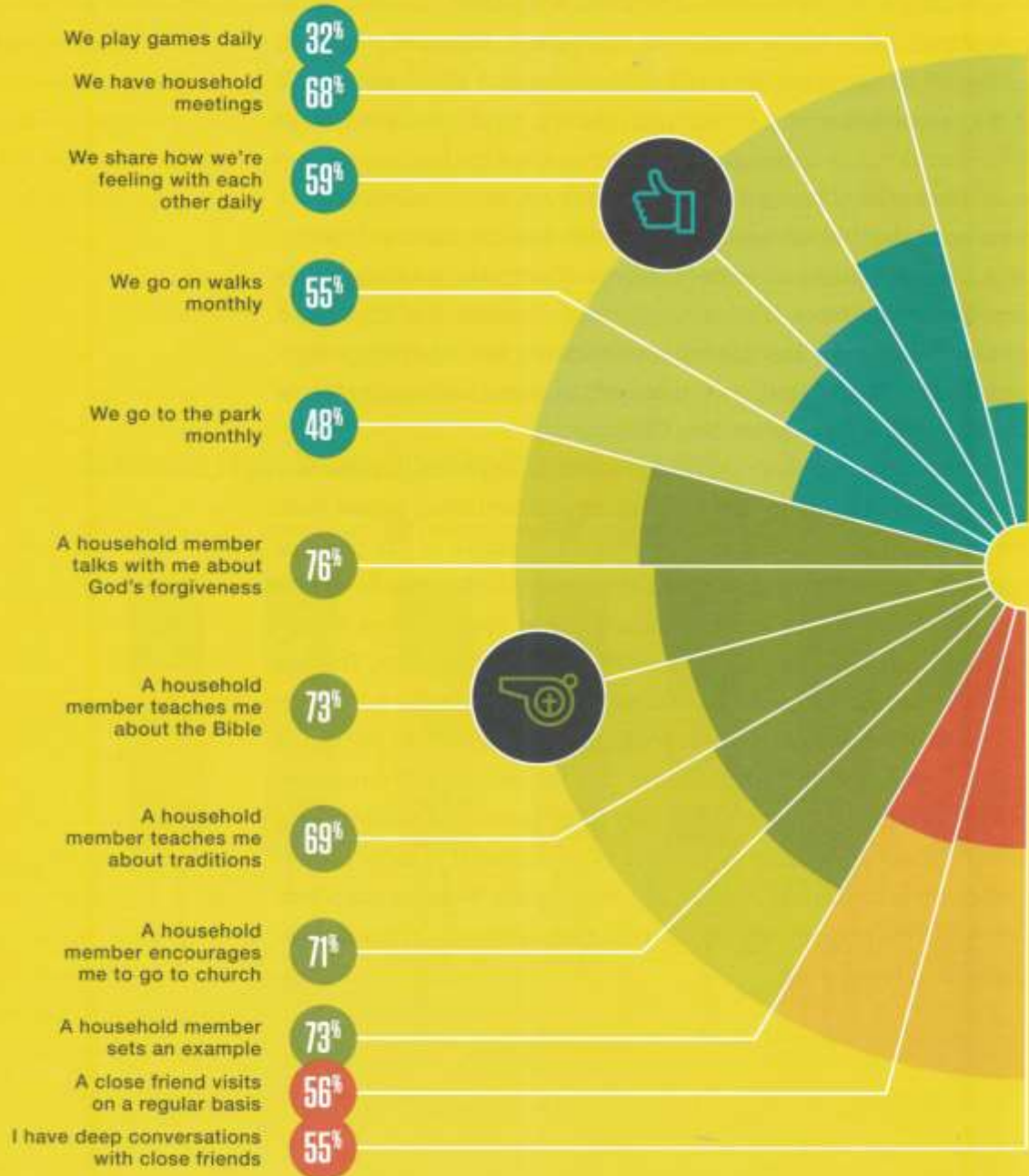
Remember... the graph above shows that singles are vital members of households. God works through you to greatly influence those He places around you. And He blesses you in the process!

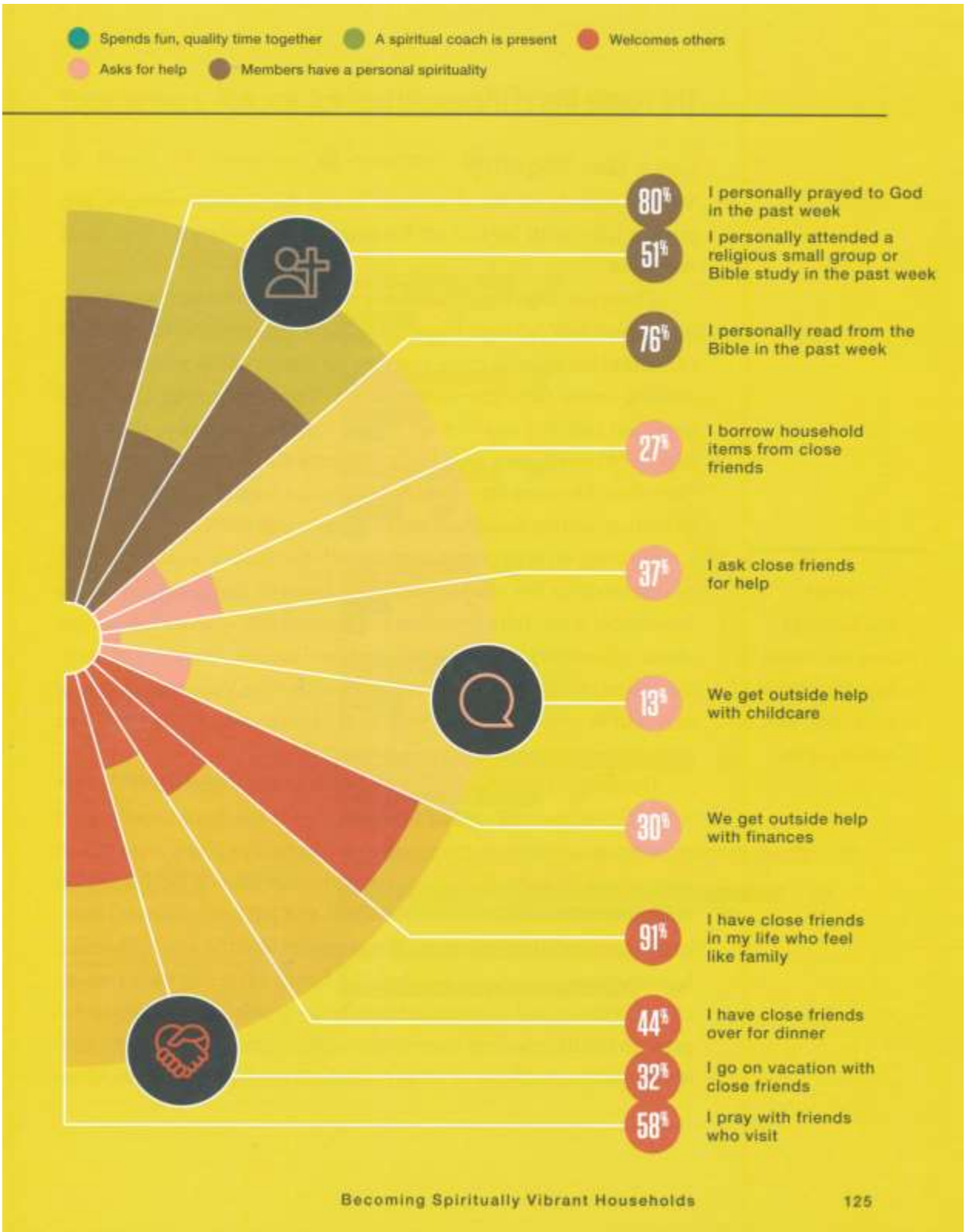
E"Special"ly for Singles:

- Prayfully write a long, thoughtful letter to an extended household member, and await their response.
- Read the book, The Reluctant Witness: Discovering the Delight of Spiritual Conversations by Don Everts, and share what you learn with your extended household members or your Connection Group. OR... Gather a few friends for a **book club** and use this book as a focus.
- Ask one of your extended household members to join you in helping at a Third Thursday, Senior Center Services, or International Friendship Center activity.
- Invite an extended household member to go on a walk with you and ask how God is growing their faith and how you can be praying for them.
- Take a friend out for a meal and share how you see God working in and through him/her.
- Participate in ELC's next Adult Bible Class offering of Lutheran Hour Ministries' and Barna Research Group's "Spiritual Conversations" course.
- Call one of ELC's shut-ins on a regular basis and just talk with him/her about faith and life.
- Establish a **holiday tradition** where you visit one or more extended household members and bring them a special blessing from Scripture. At Thanksgiving it could be a quality in them for which you are thankful, at Easter a praise for a specific way you see God bringing new life in their hearts and lives, at Christmas a small gift with a word of hope for the new year.
- Commit to sponsor a child with COPI or India Transformed or Compassion International. Write regularly to encourage their faith.

Keep these 2 pages with your devo material, or on your frig as prompts for healthy vibrancy!

What Makes for a Vibrant Household?





May the Spirit of Christ daily and richly pour out His power and grace on your household of faith... for your abundant spiritual life, for His kingdom's growth, and for His GLORY! Amen