



# HOMIES

## *The Power of Selflessness*

#nphomies

Week 6  
6 of 6

May 28, 2017

**Bottom Line:** Selfishness destroys relationships, while selflessness builds them up.

**Icebreaker:** Tell the group that their assignment is to find 10 things they have in common with every other person in the group. No body parts (we all have legs, we all have arms) and no clothing (we all wear shoes, we all wear pants). If the group is larger than 5 people, divide into groups of 5 or less. Give just 6 minutes to discover the 10. If there is more than one group, give an opportunity to share.

**Key Verse:** *Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.* Philippians 2:4 NLT

The key to developing and maintaining healthy relationships is unleashing the power of selflessness. That is one of life's most challenging tasks. We get into relationships by working very hard at being unselfish. We put our best foot forward, make sacrifices that are unnatural for us, and lay our lives down for the other by doing things that are inconvenient and less than desirable because we want the relationship to progress. But as time goes on, the energy we initially invested into the relationship is diluted. We begin to think more of "what I want or what I need." If the other person in the relationship is doing the same thing, the relationship quickly deteriorates. But if one person chooses the selfless way, that can transform the relationship for good.

Selflessness does not mean ignoring my own needs; it means that the needs of the other takes priority. Whereas selfishness places my needs at the top of the list, selflessness builds the relationship by eliminating pride, self-centered ambition, and the sense that I am always right. Paul says in Philippians 2 that Jesus gave us the example of humility, which stands at the center of great relationships. Humility pays attention to the other and to his/her needs, doesn't demand, looks for ways to serve, and does what is right even when it is painful. This kind of relating brings out the best in others and builds trust in relationships. It's possible for even the most self-centered person to change when they experience that kind of love. Kindness and unselfish love can be transforming to even the most challenging hard heart. It's the way of Jesus.

### THINK IT OVER >>>

What was the point of the message that spoke most to you?

How would you describe selfishness? Selflessness? What are the characteristics of each?

"Every element of conflict has some pride mixed in it." Agree or disagree? Why?

"We live in a world where narcissism (excessive interest in oneself and one's physical appearance) gets rewarded." Agree or disagree? Why?

How do we balance this in seeking relationships, since people typically get into relationships because of image and appearance?

What's the difference between self-confidence and pride?

### LOOK IT OVER <<<

"Humility is not so much about what you think of yourself, but what you think of other people. Humility is not putting myself down, but building other people up." Based on that definition, who in your circle of relationships is humble?

"Great people make people feel great. Little people belittle people." Name a person from your childhood who demonstrated this principle?

God makes more promises about humility than any other characteristic except generosity. That speaks volumes about its impact in relationships.

"The greatest gift you can give someone is your attention, because your attention is your time and your time is your life. If I give you money I can always get that back. If I give you my attention – I will never get it back." So what's the payback?

## NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Commit to have a family time this week where you build each other up and affirm great characteristics about each other.
- 2) Pray for those moments to be positively sealed to every family member's heart.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Selfishness destroys relationships, while selflessness builds them up.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Day 1: 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Day 2: Galatians 5:19-21

Day 3: James 4:6

Day 4: Mark 8:35b

Day 5: Galatians 6:7-8

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***  
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)