



The Power of Same

WARM UP

What is one consistent habit or quirk you've had for years?

SET IT UP

We're constantly exposed to the newest of innovations, with the "next great thing." We get enamored with all that sparkles and shines, that promises to change our lives. But what if the key to change isn't trying something new, but just doing some simple things consistently? Maybe we need to discover the power of "same." Let's talk about it.

CHAT IT UP

1. Name one habit, relationship, or behavior you are hoping to change in 2017?
2. Did you know the average person makes the same resolution 10 times without success?
What do you think makes lasting change so difficult?
3. God specializes in taking what's broken and making it new. Let's check out Paul's story to witness a firsthand account. **Read 1 Timothy 1:12-16.**
4. **Change is possible.** Describe Paul's past before he began following Jesus? (*Hint: He persecuted the early church, spoke disrespectfully of Christ and struggled with anger*).
5. Share how you have struggled, or are currently struggling, to believe that God could change you? How does Paul hope his story will inspire you? (*Hint: Paul says if God could rescue him, He could save anybody!*)
6. **Change is possible, but it's also a process.** Paul's story is incredible, but he wasn't made a saint overnight! **Read Philippians 3:10-14.**
7. If Paul were to share with you how to pursue a relationship with God without getting stuck, what would it be? (*Hint: Don't focus on past failures, but instead made it a priority to keep pursuing God and taking a next step*).
8. Think of one way we as a group can encourage you this year as we follow Jesus together. Let's share it now and write it down so we can partner together as you pursue this next step in 2017!

WRAP IT UP

We all want to change in some way, to some degree. That desire to change seems heightened at the beginning of a new year, which is why we make "new year's resolutions." This year, instead of getting frustrated with ourselves because we don't follow through, let's

try something different. Don't make any resolutions. Starting now, let's develop some routines that will change the way we live and the way we follow Jesus.

LEADER TIPS

- Don't lead alone. Look for ways to share responsibility with group members. This will help keep you from burning out and will create stronger "buy in" amongst people in your group. One of the key roles of leading a group is developing others. Don't miss out on that incredible opportunity!