



SG | Small Groups

Adults choose to take responsibility.

"The day you take full responsibility for your life is the day you pass from childhood into adulthood." — Jim Rohn

Immature people blame others for the condition of their life.

"If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month." — Theodore Roosevelt

Why do we blame others?

"Blame is a sort of comfort food for the soul. It diverts us from the effort of owning responsibility." — Henry Cloud

The man replied, "It was the **woman you** gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it." Then the Lord God asked the woman, "What have you done?" "The **serpent** deceived me," she replied. "That's **why** I ate it." *Genesis 3:12-13*

Blame-shifting locks us into adolescence.

"Man must cease attributing his problems to his environment, and learn again to exercise his will—his personal responsibility." — Albert Einstein

Personal responsibility empowers you to change your situation.

"Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom." — Viktor Frankl

...**work out** your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. *Philippians 2:12-13*

Yes, each of us will give a personal **account** to God. *Romans 14:12*

The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and **watch over it**. *Genesis 2:15*

"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you." — Saint Augustine

1. Stop blaming others.

2. Own your life.

"Action springs not from thought, but from a readiness for responsibility." — Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Are you owning your life?

Group Prep

In preparation for small group, read Genesis 3:1-13, then answer the following discussion questions.

Introduction

Last week, we established that time does not grow us up, our choices do. This week, Danny spoke on stepping up and taking ownership of our lives. Immature people blame others for the condition of their lives and this locks them into an adolescent mindset. Taking personal responsibility empowers us to change our situation. Jim Rohn said it best when he stated, "The day you take full responsibility for your life is the day you pass from childhood into adulthood."

Discussion Questions

1. It's far too easy to blame others for the condition of our life. Blaming others makes us feel better and gives us a reason or excuse to justify the situations we find ourselves in. What are some current examples of this you see in the world today?

2. Read Genesis 3:12-13. Adam was quick to blame Eve and even God for his actions. Eve justified her actions by blaming the serpent. Blame-shifting locks us into adolescence. Who or what do you tend to blame for the outcomes in your life?

We continue to live with the consequences of Adam and Eve's decision to sin and blame others. Although blaming others makes us feel better, it usually carries devastating consequences to our development into adulthood. Why is it so easy to blame others to justify our actions?

3. Viktor E. Frankl said, "Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom." Has there ever been a time in your life where you couldn't control the stimulus but you were able to control your response?

4. In Philippians 2:12, the scripture tells us to "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." What does the phrase "work out" mean in this passage? What are some practical examples of this in our lives?

5. Read Romans 14:12. Adults choose to take responsibility. In what area(s) of your life do you need to take full responsibility and ownership? What actions will you take this week to stop the blame game and step into owning your life?

My action step is _____.

I will encourage and pray for _____ to follow through, and their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I'm praying for _____.

Outreach: Groups in Action

The Children's Ministry has a summer opportunity! Keep your group connected over the summer by serving in the children's area. Connect with Kerry Carmichael at kcarmichael.eclife.org to pick a service time and opportunity your group can support.

Colombia still needs many little toys (balls, happy meal toys, beanie babies, etc). Clean out your closets or hit up the local garage sales. Over 900 kids will be ministered by our missions team at the end of June. Drop toys off to the Information Desk by June 17!