Relationship Leeches - September 9th - Controlling - Troy Knight

Key Scriptures
From the Message
Daniel 6:1-24

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- On a scale of 1-10, how controlling was the home you grew up in? How has this shaped you?
- Are you more of a controller or a people pleaser?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Why do you think some people are so controlling? What drives this kind of living?
- What do you think the motivations are for someone who allows themselves to be controlled?

Start Reading.
Romans 12:17-18
Philippians. 2:3-4
1 Thessalonians 5:11
1 Thessalonians 5:14
Hebrews 3:13
Romans 14:19
Romans 12:3

Start studying. Think back to the message.

- Read Daniel 6:1-9. What motivated the other satraps and administrators to pass this law?
- Read Daniel 6:10-24. How did Daniel handle this group of men trying to control him? Discuss the phrase, "**just as he had done before.**" What gave Daniel the courage he needed to ignore the foolish law?

Start sharing. Discuss the questions to create openness.

- Share workplace or other life experiences when someone tried to undermine and outshine hard workers in order to highlight or benefit themselves.
- If someone who wanted to control you tried to find fault in the way you did your job, would they be successful? What do you think would be an appropriate response?
- Pastor Troy used the illustration of Daniel fighting the temptation to change in order to please people because he knew what he was called to do. In what area(s) of your life may you need to apply this principle?
- Over what areas of your life do you try to have the most control? What would you like to do differently?
- Are you a part of an unhealthy relationship in which you have allowed someone to control you? How will you begin to draw boundaries?

Start digging.
Further study.

Troy ended the message with the statement "know what you're called to do." For further study look at the following gotquestions.org
How can I find my spiritual calling?
(on back)

Start doing. Commit to a next step and live it out this week.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see any ways in which you have controlled others or have been controlled by others. Tell friends you trust, and take action to find freedom.

Your group can also study through "Start Reading" verses for the week.

Start praying. Be bold and pray together.

- Have someone in your group pray through the requests in your prayer journal.
- Ask God to guide each group member to apply all that you studied together to their own lives and to guide them to their next step.

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Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

Start digging.

- If your group has time, read and discuss the following (this will replace the "digging deeper" section)