

# What If ??????????

## Addictions

During your prayer / share time someone sheepishly asks for prayer for something that's going on in their life that has really gotten them down. As they continue they break down and begin to cry and say, "I don't belong in this group. I've been deceiving all of you, and I really need help in my life." You gather around them and lay hands on them, praying for them. After the meeting breaks up you approach the person and ask if there is anything you could do to help. They open up and share with you that they feel like they are living a double life – in that they are still smoking marijuana (abusing alcohol / abusing prescription pain medicine / etc. Fill in the blank) on a regular basis. They want to stop but they are not seeing much victory. They've been using the substance regularly for the past 10-12 years. They are already involved in AA but have not been able to kick the habit. Is victory really possible?

**You have 5 minutes** to decide how you should proceed and you *must* have at least one verse to motivate / guide your decision

- Where should you start? How do you give hope immediately? What verses would you use to give hope?
- What do you do next? What can the church / small group community offer in their fight that AA is probably not doing?
- What biblical principles do you think bear on the issue of any addiction? What is the root sin for most addictions? What verses would you use to get at this?
- What other sins should you look for that are often associated with someone struggling with addiction? How would you help to hold them accountable in their fight against this sin? What verses would you use?