



**WEEK OF May 7 - May 13 / GROUP TIME GUIDE**

This guide is given to aide in the facilitation of leading your small group. It is only an aid for you to experience Christ together.

### **ABIDE: BIG PICTURE TOGETHER**

**Start with Purpose** – It’s always important to hear from God’s Word why we are doing what we are doing! **Have someone read aloud, Romans 12:5**

Discuss these questions in your group: Why do we need one another to fulfill this scripture? How does small group fit into this passage? What’s the point of us doing life together?

### **ABIDE: LISTEN TOGETHER**

This time of listening to God together is vitally important as the Body of Christ. Let this time lead you into praying together and allowing Jesus to speak to you as a group.

- If you want, sing a song together either with an iPod or with somebody leading from the group.
- This may be a time to simply gaze upon God individually too for a moment and waiting for Him to bring to mind things that need to be said to each other.
- Spend a few moments listening to God through scripture by allowing the Word to speak to and through your group. Feel free to ask group members to use scriptures to encourage another. Nothing is more powerful than using God’s Truth to encourage and edify another. God uses His Word through His Body to build up the Body.

### **CONNECT: LOVE TOGETHER**

Use this time to catch up with everyone and ask if there are any prayer requests or matters needing attention. It can be uncomfortable for people to share about themselves and many will want to hear from others, don’t let them ignore their personal needs! This is a time for Jesus to shepherd your group through the group. This is one of the few times during the week where our church can accomplish the “one another” lifestyle. Make sure to try and see if there has been any progress in recent requests, praise is equally as important as prayers

*“...Submit to one another” — Ephesians 5:21*

After you’ve prayed, let them know that our group meets all the time. Continue this week to show love by meeting needs. We all are called to pastor the church.

## CONNECT: TEACH TOGETHER

Ask someone in the group (or a few people) to read **Acts 1:8** out loud and then answer and discuss the following together:

1. Pastor Vance opened by answering the question, “What is God’s mission,” saying, “God’s mission is the expansion of His kingdom to every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.” From this he unpacked 4 truths about God’ mission, the first being “God’s mission is always bigger than one church.”
  - a. **Pastor Vance said that in American Christianity we have switched the focus from the kingdom to the church, what does that mean? Discuss in your group.**
  - b. **How do you think Hope Church does in balancing growth and sending people? Do You think we are successfully fulfilling the mission?**
2. Secondly, Pastor Vance shared with us that, “God’s mission is always empowered by His Spirit.” From this we learned that in order to accomplish the things God has called us to do, we need His Holy Spirit. Jim Cymbala said it this way, *“If we want to spread the gospel and see Christ-glorifying conversions, if we want to see breakthroughs in difficult—even seemingly impossible—situations, we must have more power from the Holy Spirit...the Holy Spirit was sent so that all of us—whether or not we’re in formal ministry—could reach out to humanity and rely on a power beyond ourselves.”*
  - a. **What does it mean to be empowered by the Spirit?**
  - b. **Do you live daily with the power of Holy Spirit and God’s mission in mind?**
3. Thirdly, “God’s mission is always about people coming to know Him.” This begged the question, “Why then focus on foster care, human trafficking, and education in the next 10-25 years?”
  - a. **What’s the purpose of us getting involved in these three areas, as it relates to God’s mission?**
  - b. **Which area do you feel God is leading you to be most involved in? Why?**
4. Finally, Pastor Vance taught us, “God’s mission is always accomplished through His people.” Take time and pray together for our church, the mission, and this 10 to 15-year vision that we believe God has given us.

## SHARE: MOBILIZE TOGETHER

1. Ask God for supernatural unity in our church.
2. Ask God together as a group to do what only He can do in this NEXT campaign. Ask Him not to bless it for us, but for His honor and Glory that the ends of the earth would know and worship Him!
3. Ask God to begin to soften our hearts to give sacrificially and from a heart that sees what He sees so others would be able to know Him too!

