



WEEK OF May 14 - May 20 / 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, Galatians 6:10**

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

"...love one another" —John 13:34

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 4:32-37** out loud and then answer and discuss the following together:

1. Pastor Vance opened by teaching that there are two basic principles on giving according to the Bible: **Always a Portion (joyful obedience that always leads me to give first to the Lord of what He provides for me) and Sometimes a Sacrifice (Spirit-led generosity that occasionally calls me to give more than I think I can to get on what God is doing in the moment).**
 - a. **What is the difference between Always a Portion and Sometimes a Sacrifice?**
 - b. **Is always giving a portion first to the Lord a sacrifice? Explain your answer. (The right answer is *no* it's not a sacrifice, it's *obedience*)**
2. Out of Acts 4:32-37, Pastor Vance taught three principles about sacrificial giving. The first principle he shared was, **"Sacrificial giving begins with a right heart towards God that leads to a right view of things."** He then shared a powerful quote by John MacArthur, "A very practical test of a Christian's love is how much he or she is willing to sacrifice financially." Consider Acts 4:32 and discuss these questions:
 - a. **What was the people's view of their resources in Acts 4:32? Do you have the perspective the church had in Acts 4:32?**
 - b. **What is generosity really about at its core? What does it reveal in a Christian's life?**
 - c. **With Mark 12:41-44 in mind, is God impressed with the *amount* of our giving? What does He actually care about?**
3. The second principle Pastor Vance taught was, **"Sacrificial giving is motivated by the needs of the moment."** From this statement and Acts 4:34, he taught that this sacrificial giving is not an *always* but a *sometimes*. Pastor Vance also shared the life-changing reality: **"As we live generously, we invite the generosity of our Father into our lives!"**. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 and discuss:
 - a. **When is the last time you were led by the Lord in sacrificial giving? What kind of need were you meeting?**
 - b. **What does Pastor Vance mean when he says, "As we live generously, we invite the generosity of our Father into our lives"? Have you experienced that personally?**
4. Finally, Pastor Vance taught us, **"Sacrificial giving accompanies the accomplishing of God's mission."** In this part of the sermon we learned that everywhere you see God moving in a mighty way, you find two things: *desperate prayer* (Acts 4:31) and *sacrificial generosity* (Acts 4:34).
 - a. **How do we accomplish the mission through sacrificial generosity?**
 - b. **Where are you living with the biblical teaching of Always a Portion and Sometimes a Sacrifice?**

SHARE: MOBILIZE TOGETHER

1. Ask God for supernatural unity in our church.
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!

