



WEEK OF August 6 – August 12 / GROUP TIME GUIDE

This guide is given to aide in the facilitation of leading your small group. It is only an aide 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

“...Accept one another” — Romans 15:7

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: **The aim of these questions is to facilitate conversation and good discussion, don't move too fast to get through them all. Let the Spirit lead your group through whatever these questions prompt.*

Ask someone in the group (or a few people) to read **1 John 5:1-5** out loud and then answer and discuss the following together:

1. Pastor Jeff opened up his message by talking about his story/testimony. He used two stage panels to illustrate a journey we are all on as human beings and believers. By way of this illustration he then walked us through his journey of faith from the beginning of his life, to the beginning of his relationship with Christ.
 - a. **Ask all or a few people to share their testimonies or journeys of faith. How did they come to know Jesus? What's their story?**
2. Pastor Jeff gave us three realizations to consider from 1 John 5:1-5. The first being, **"You are born of God by believing that Jesus is Lord."**
 - a. **What does it all entail to believe Jesus is Lord?**
 - b. **What does a person must believe in order to fully say Jesus is the Lord of their life?**
3. Secondly, Pastor Jeff taught that, **"Loving God means loving other Jesus followers."** From this point he shared with us a central idea of: **"What a Jesus follower believes is shown in how a Jesus follower behaves."**
 - a. **Discuss the point, "What a Jesus follower believes is shown in how a Jesus follower behaves." What does that mean for us? How does this relate to loving other believers?**
 - b. **Do you live in such a way that supports what you say you believe? What are some examples of this?**
4. Thirdly, Pastor Jeff shared, **"God's commandments show his love for us and keeping those commandments is not burdensome."** From this he used a powerful example of how parents guard their children from hot stoves, traffic, and numerous harmful things to protect them not burden them. In the same way, God's commandments are designed to protect us, not burden us.
 - a. **Why is it that we see God's commandments as burdensome instead of helpful?**
 - b. **Have someone share an experience where they obeyed God in spite of what they wanted and saw it turn out to be for the best.**
5. Pastor Jeff taught that the burden of God's commands is not in keeping them, but actually ignoring them and experiencing the consequences. It's the consequences of our sins that cause grief and pain, not obeying God's Word. The good news is the fourth reality he shared, **"Because of my faith in Jesus, I have overcome the world."**
 - a. **Ask if anyone has a story or testimony of this reality: ignoring the Word of God and experiencing the consequences.**
 - b. **What does it mean for us that we have overcome the world by our faith in Christ?**

SHARE: MOBILIZE TOGETHER

1. Pray for each other, what needs are in your group that you need to bring before God?
2. Pray for those that are on the journey with you. For strength, perseverance, and joy.
3. Pray for a lost friend, family member, or coworker who is in your circle of influence. Pray for those that are close or far from taking that faith step into a relationship with Christ.

