



WEEK OF October 12 – October 18 / 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, Acts 2:42-47**

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

“...be kind to one another” — Ephesians 4:23

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 **Philippians 2:25-30** out loud and then answer and discuss the following together:

1. Pastor Vance opened his sermon by asking and answering the question of if God could really use an ordinary person for his mission. He used the person of Epaphroditus to show that God could indeed use anybody, anywhere for the Kingdom.
 - a. **How does Epaphroditus apply to this question?**
 - b. **How should his example be an encouragement to us?**
2. We were given three things about Epaphroditus that enabled him to join in the mission of Jesus. The first was that “he knew Jesus.” From this statement Pastor Vance shared that there are future missionaries and church planters in the Las Vegas region that are waiting to hear the gospel. Those used by God to accomplish the mission of the gospel are first reached by someone through the mission of the gospel.
 - a. **When’s the last time you shared the gospel with someone?**
 - b. **Who shared the gospel with you that led to your relationship with Christ?**
3. Secondly, Pastor Vance shared, “he walked with Jesus.” Clyde Cranford said, “If we are walking in intimacy with Christ, the sweet smell of His presence in our lives rises first to the nostrils of God as a fragrant aroma. Then this fragrance disseminates to those around us...” The main point of this statement was: the greatest thing you can do today to join in the mission of Jesus is to be long in the presence of Jesus!
 - a. **Discuss Clyde Cranford’s quote. What does he mean? How does it look practically?**
 - b. **What is your time like with Jesus lately? Why is it so paramount to fulfilling the mission of God?**
4. Finally, Pastor Vance taught, “he was surrendered to Jesus.” Out of this point he delivered us three ways to test whether or not we are surrendered to the mission of Jesus: Am I willing to be SENT anywhere? Am I willing to SERVE anyone in anyway? Am I willing to SACRIFICE anything?
 - a. **Are you surrendered to the mission of Jesus?**
 - b. **Which of the three filters do you struggle with the most? Why?**

SHARE: MOBILIZE TOGETHER

1. Pray for the Kingdom of God to spread all over the world. Specifically, that God would use Hope Church in Las Vegas, The West, and The World.
2. Pray for our partners in and around the world. That they would be strengthened and encouraged.
3. Pray that God would send people into the world to be missionaries and church planters.