



GROUP TIME

*“Time spent **consistently**
in community
with a small group
from my church”*

WEEK OF November 26 – December 2 / GROUP TIME GUIDE

This guide is given to aid 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, Hebrews 3:12-13**

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

“admonish one another...” —Romans 15:14

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 **Psalms 100:4-5** out loud and then answer

and discuss the following questions together:

1. In view of Thanksgiving, Pastor Travis preached a powerful sermon on giving thanks out of Psalm 100. He sought to answer two foundation questions about thanksgiving. The first question was, “*Why should I be thankful?*”
 - a. **Before moving forward, would you say you are a thankful person?**
 - b. **What are the greatest hindrances or challenges to living a thankful life?**
2. The first answer Pastor Travis gave us as to why we should be thankful was, “The Lord is good – *He knows and desires what is best for us.*”
 - a. **What does Pastor Travis mean when he says, “*He [God] knows and desires what is best for us?*”?**
 - b. **How does this reality help and challenge us to be thankful?**
3. Secondly, Pastor Travis taught, “The Lord is loving – *he loves us with an unending love.*” From this point he shared with us that the word, “lovingkindness” combines two ideas of loyal love and unfailing kindness. Therefore, God not only knows what’s best for us – but he also loves us the most.
 - a. **How do we see God’s unending love in the person and work of Jesus Christ? How does that affect us today?**
 - b. **How does this help and challenge us to be thankful daily?**
4. Thirdly, Pastor Travis taught us that, “The Lord is faithful – *He can be trusted no matter what.*”
 - a. **Why is the faithfulness of God such a crucial, yet forgotten aspect of life? How can we remind ourselves of his faithfulness daily?**
 - b. **Pastor Travis taught the difference between asking the question, “*Lord why is this happening,*” and “*Lord, how are you going to use this for your purposes?*” – Which is the right question to ask and why?**
5. Finally, Pastor Travis answered the question, “*How do I demonstrate that I am thankful?*” The two main ways we do this is through our attitude and our actions.
 - a. **How can we demonstrate our thankfulness through our attitude and actions?**
 - b. **How does being thankful begin with our heart and overflow into our lives?**

SHARE: MOBILIZE TOGETHER

1. Pray for a lost family member, friend, coworker, etc.
2. Pray for our church, that they would be marked by gratitude and thankfulness.
3. Pray that God would send people into the world to be missionaries and church planters.