

Weekend Message Small Group Study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **1/9/16-1/10/16**.
- a meeting agenda organized per St. Paul core values
- estimated for a 90-minute meeting



STRETCH – WEEK 1 (OF 5)

Equipping “the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ”—Eph. 4:12

Below is a tool to help delegate the leading/facilitating of meeting components between different small group members.

	Prayer (p.4)	Outreach (p.3)	Word of God (p.2)	Equipping (p. 4)	Worship - Our Redemption Response - (p.2)
Study component leader					

Prayer leader – Leads group prayer time

Outreach leader – Leads the charge of outreach (serving, inviting, filling the empty chair, etc.)

Word of God leader – Leads the Bible study time, encourages application of God’s Word to life

Equipping Leader – Coordinates and reminds who will lead the different meeting components.

Worship (Our Redemption Response) Leader – Leads worship time during meeting.

Worship – Our Redemption Response**5 minutes****All:**

**When you pass through the deep waters,
and through the raging rivers, they shall not overwhelm you,
when you walk through the fire you shall not be burned,
I will, be with you, I have called you by name.**

**When the waters of fear lap at the doors of your life,
when the rivers of terror threaten to overwhelm you,
when the fire of confusion and the flames of despair blister your purpose,
I will be with you. I have called you by name.**

**When the storms of life and the tremors of day to day living shake everything,
when the morbid drizzle of weariness just won't let up,
when the battering winds of secularism hit you once again,
I will be with you. I have called you by name.**

**When the smog of disunity blocks your way forward,
when the clouds of backbiting and gossip hang heavy in the air,
when the thunderous cracks of cynicism resound once again,
I will be with you. I have called you by name.**

Worship champion to close in prayer thanking God for calling us by name through the deep waters, through the trials, through the times when we are emotionally and spiritually stretched.

excerpt from engageworship.org, Dave Hopwood's *Deep Waters*.

Word of God**45 minutes**

1. How did you SEE God at work in your life this week?

2. What has God been teaching you in HIS WORD?

3. Read Romans 6:1-11 (ESV):

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

What word or phrase most caught your attention in the above verses? Why was that?

4. What spiritual stretching is involved when we consider **ourselves** “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus”?
5. IN PAIRS OR TRIADS, DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING: Getting more personal, what spiritual stretching is involved when you consider **yourself** “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus”?
6. In what *one* way, one area of life (just keeping it simple at this point), do you wish God to help you walk in newness of life at this beginning of a new year? What have you been holding onto closely that has prevented, stalled, or slowed walking in that newness of life? Your hold on money and possessions, destructive habits, trying to control people, situations, etc.? How can God use the one you are paired with or your triad to help you with this?

Outreach (Remaining in pairs or triads)

15 minutes

Who is someone new that has entered your life, a person far from God, that you (we) can begin praying about with regards to knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior?

Prayer

20 minutes

STILL IN YOUR PAIRS OR TRIADS, share a prayer request based on what was discussed during this meeting's *Word of God* and/or *Outreach* time. What is that next step in your faith life God is calling you to make? What convicted you from God's Word and/or our discussion of His Word? Please also share a way in which the group may support/encourage you regarding what you've shared. Of course other important matters can be prayed about as well. After all have shared, pray for the person on your left (whether aloud or silently). Pray together.

Equipping *for coordinating next week's meeting...*

5 minutes

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