

Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on 4/25/15 – 4/26/15
- a meeting agenda organized per St. Paul core values
- estimated for a 90-minute meeting

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.

Introduction

1 John 3:16-24 (ESV)

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Worship – *Our Redemption Response*

5 minutes

Commissioning prayer
based on Matt 28:17-20 and 10:7-8.

(said by all together)

**Jesus we worship you,
And sometimes we doubt.
Yet we know all authority is yours.**

**So you call us to go:
to all nations,
to make disciples,
to continue your mission.**

**You call us to announce your Kingdom:
to heal the sick,
to raise the dead,
to cast out demons.**

**You call us to baptize in your name:
you are Father,
you are Son,
you are Holy Spirit.**

We will follow, we will obey and teach all you have commanded,

**For you are with us always,
day after day, year after year,
to the very end of the age. Amen.**

excerpt from engageworship.org, Sara Hargreave's Commissioning Prayer.

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. Review 1 John 3:16-24 (found in the introduction). What did God command in these verses?
Can you do one without the other?
4. What are we to believe?
5. What is #1 in any congregation's budget?

6. Examining the mission field of your congregation, what strikes you as most urgent?
7. Who are the unchurched in your community (those who either have no Christian upbringing or haven't attended a congregation's worship service for many years) in your community? How may they be reached with the love of Jesus? How are you and your small group involved in that process?
8. Who are the underchurched (those who have attended a congregation's worship service in the last year, but not within the last month) in your community? How may they be reached with the love of Jesus? How are you and your small group involved in that process?

Outreach

15 minutes

Read 1 John 5:6-12.

"And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." (1 John 5:11 ESV)



Testimony defined: evidence given by the appearance of something or someone.

The Spirit and the water

"And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him." (Matthew 3:16 ESV)

The blood

[on the cross] "When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, 'It is finished,' and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." (John 19:30 ESV)

Do you believe God's testimony? Do you believe that only in Jesus is there true life?

Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10 ESV)

How may you share God's testimony today to the unchurched and underchurched in your life?

adapted from <http://craigmattes.blogspot.com/>

Prayer

20 minutes

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 in popcorn style (as opposed to going in order around a circle.)

Equipping for coordinating next week's meeting...

5 minutes

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