

Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **5/30/15 – 5/31/15**
- 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.3)	Outreach (p.3)	Word of God (p.3)	Equipping (p. 4)	Worship - Our Redemption Response - (p.1)
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

Acts 2:36-39 (ESV)

³⁶ “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.’

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ ³⁸ And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.’”

Worship – Our Redemption Response

5 minutes

Leader: Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic (universal, Christian) faith.

All: Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.

Leader: And the catholic faith is this,

All: That we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.

Leader: For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.

All: But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.

Leader: Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:

All: The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;

Leader: The Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;

All: The Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.

Leader: And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,

All: Just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinities, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.

Leader: In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;

All: And yet there are not three Almighty's, but one Almighty.

Leader: So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;

All: And yet there are not three Gods, but one God.

Leader: So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;

All: And yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.

Leader: Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord,

All: So also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

Leader: The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.

All: The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.

Leader: Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

All: And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another; but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped. Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

Leader: But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man. He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; And He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age: Perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;

Leader: equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

All: Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ: One, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God; one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.

Leader: For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,

All: Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,

Leader: Ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

All: At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.

Leader: And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

All: This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved. Amen.

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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 Acts 2:36-39** (from the introduction). Where are you seeing the Trinity in these verses? What roles do you find for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
4. **Read John 3:1-8**. Where are you seeing the Trinity in these verses? What roles do you find for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
5. Why is the Trinity important?
6. How or where have you seen the Trinity in your life? **or** How would you like to see the Trinity active in your life?

Outreach

15 minutes

The following was asked in last week's study. But maybe you've gained some new perspective since then and from today's discussion of God's Word. **How does God's promise and Peter's words in Act 2:38-39 impact and inspire your witness of Jesus to your community?**

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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