

Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **6/5/15 – 6/6/15**
- 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.4)	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

Mark 3:24-25 ESV -

Jesus said, “If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.”

Worship – *Our Redemption Response*

5 minutes

Take turns reading through the following:

We are many,
God’s great diversity,
yet we are one in Christ.

Different faces,
different races,
yet we are one in Christ.

Butchers, bakers,
website makers,

bankers, tailors,
teachers, sailors,
yet we are one in Christ.

Fathers, mothers,
sisters, brothers,
single, married,
broken, carried,
yet we are one in Christ.

The happy, the clappy,
the barely out of nappies,
the ancient, the modern,
the famous, the forgotten,
yet we are one in Christ.

Some hopeful, some hopeless,
some cope well, some cope less.
Some sure and some doubt,
some whisper, some shout,
yet we are one in Christ.

Those with abundance,
those with need,
those who are generous
or wrestle with greed,
yet we are one in Christ.

Elbows, tummies, knees and noses,
kidneys, femurs, teeth and toeses.
Some unmentionable, some protected,
some accepted, some rejected,
yet we are one in Christ.

A broken body,
torn apart,
mars God's image,
breaks God's heart.
And yet our Father knows how the end will be,
when all his kids will sing in harmony,
the bride will dazzle, her branches bloom,
so add your voice to hymn the tune
that we are one in Christ.

Amen.

excerpt from engageworship.org, Sam Hargreave's "We Are One In Christ" poem.

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. How would you define unity?
4. What are the benefits of a group of people being unified? What does Ecclesiastes 4:12 say on the matter of unity and its rewards?
5. **Review Mark 3:24-25** (from the introduction). What does the wisdom of Jesus teach on unity?
6. How does Jesus' teaching relate to families, teams, small groups, and congregations? Re-read Mark 3:24-25 and replace "house" and "kingdom" with "family". Read through it again and insert "small group". Read it again and insert "congregation". How is God speaking to you through this exercise? What next step towards building unity is God calling you to take?
7. **Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-16**. How do you see being of the same spirit of God, unified in Christ, as a means of helping one another not lose heart but being renewed each day?

Outreach

15 minutes

“Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.”
(Proverbs 19:21 ESV)

Let's look at our Lord Jesus' purpose:

“And when it was day, he [Jesus] departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, but he said to them, 'I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.’” (Luke 4:42-43 ESV)



For what reasons would the people have not wanted Jesus to leave them? What could have been the consequences if their plans were successful? What could have been the consequences if the town where Jesus was previously were successful in keeping Jesus to themselves?

What do you these verses say to the congregation which does little preaching of the good news, little bringing of Jesus' presence to those outside of church walls?

Individuals and/or a congregation may have their own plans. But according to Proverbs 19:21 and Luke 4:42-43, to what purpose should our plans be set and shaped? What is your next step, your congregation's next step, in being about Jesus' purpose?

excerpt from www.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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