

Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **7/4/15 – 7/5/15**
- 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.2)	Word of God (p.2)	Equipping (p. 3)	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

2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (ESV):

¹ “I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³ And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴ and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵ On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— ⁶ though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷ So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹ But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Worship – *Our Redemption Response*

5 minutes

Each person: Spend a minute or two paging through the book of Psalm. Find 5 verses which stick out to you giving God praise.

As a group: Take turns reading the 5 verses each of you have selected.

Adore champion: Close with 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 2 Corinthians 2:1-10 (from the introduction).** How did Paul's thorn affect his life?
4. How do you react when God appears to be silent in answer to your urgent request?
5. After reading verse 9 how do you feel about God's promise?
6. Do you have a "thorn"? What is it? How does it affect your life? How can it be used for God's glory?
7. How has God worked in and through you during a time of weakness? How will you continue to trust God in your weakness?

Outreach

15 minutes

What kind of conversations are you having with those who do not-yet-know Jesus? How do you see God using you in these encounters?

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

	Prayer	Outreach	Word of God	Equipping	Worship - Our Redemption Response
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