

## Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **7/25/15 – 7/26/15**
- 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.3)	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

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

### Introduction

Genesis 9:8-17 (ESV):

<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> ‘Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ <sup>12</sup> And God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup> I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup> When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth./ <sup>17</sup> God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’”

## Worship – Our Redemption Response

5 minutes

### Instructions:

- The following is written for two readers – one to read the normal text, the other to read the bible verses in **bold** text.
- Pick a place to be outside (like a park or backyard).
- The listeners are invited to get comfortable and close their eyes, or find something non-distracting to focus on.

### Noah and the Flood

It's finally stopped raining. After weeks of looking at nothing but depressing drizzle mixed with torrential downpours you can hardly believe that now when you hold your hand out in front of you it stays dry. You stretch your arms up above your head and just enjoy the sheer sensation of being in the open air, the silence, the sense of stillness, and, after hours cooped up in stuffy conditions with no-where to go, the SPACE all around you, stretching endlessly into the distance. You sit down on the soft, scented, grass and gaze out at the view – the dove-grey mountains, snowy peaks and flower-filled valleys, all perfectly framed by a bright arc of colour so vivid it almost hurts your eyes.

**And God said: "This is a sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature, a covenant for all generations to come. I have set my rainbow in the clouds, it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life."**

Imagine the scene in front of you, think about the view; what can you see? If you listen carefully what can you hear? Are you sitting down or standing up? If you stretch your arms out what can you touch? Is it warm or cold? Noisy or quiet? Imagine God is there with you, sharing the moment. What do you think he would say to you in this place? (Take a few minutes in silence with these questions.)

In closing, what would you like to say to him in this place? Let's pray out loud or silently. After a period of silence, the reader of the **bold** text ends with, "**Amen.**"

adapted from engageworship.org, Chloe Axford's "The Great Outdoors".

## 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 Genesis 9:8-17 (from the introduction).** Then read Mark 6:45-56.

<sup>45</sup> “Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup> And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>47</sup> And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. <sup>48</sup> And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, <sup>49</sup> but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, <sup>50</sup> for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, ‘Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.’ <sup>51</sup> And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, <sup>52</sup> for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

<sup>53</sup> When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. <sup>54</sup> And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him <sup>55</sup> and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup> And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.”

Take the remaining Word of God time to discuss the following questions:

- What similar themes do you find in the Genesis and Mark accounts?
- How/where do you find grace, promise, and restoration in both accounts?
- What do you learn of God’s grace, promise and restoration?
- How does God’s grace, promise, and restoration move you to follow Jesus?

## Outreach

15 minutes

Who in your life needs to know God’s grace, promise and restoration, known only in Jesus? How can you share this with this person?

**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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