

Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **1/10/15 – 1/11/15**
- 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

Equipping Leader – Coordinates and reminds who will lead the different meeting components.

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

Introduction

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.’ ¹⁶ But Jesus said, ‘They need not go away; you give them something to eat.’ ¹⁷ They said to him, ‘We have only five loaves here and two fish.’ ¹⁸ And he said, ‘Bring them here to me.’ ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

(Matthew 14:13-21 ESV)

Worship – *Our Redemption Response***5 minutes**

Take turns reading through the following:

Tonight (Today) we forge a new pathway into His presence
Cut a new groove in well trodden ground

We forget the monotony of repartition
Strip back any show or pretense

We leave behind the stagnancy of the familiar
Shrug off the mundane and hectic shrouds of our lives

We offer Him something fresh of our creative souls
And call into obedience the vibrancy of our creative flesh

We seek to worship You

We cry out for a flame lit version of ourselves
A flamboyant portrayal of Your life in us

Rid us of the stench of our burnt offerings
Hold us in awe and in love with You

Tear down the halls of fame we've built for ourselves
Direct our gaze to Your grace filled light

We desire an intimate audience with the Enthroned
Reveal Your heart so we would mirror You with integrity

We seek to worship You

We cast off our old understanding
The tried and tired measures and means

With boldness and beauty
With courage and caress
Let Your presence flow between our mortal bones
We are to worship You fragrantly

Free, magnified, true, real, raw, exposed, naked, sacrificial,
Obedient, unadulterated, wild, unashamed, unleashed

We seek to worship You

All: Amen!

excerpt from engageworship.org, Katie Pearce's *We Seek To Worship You*.

Word of God

45 minutes

1. What has God been teaching you in His Word this week?

2. How concerned are you that everyone be happy? Some people happy? Anybody happy? Nobody happy?

3. **Read Matthew 14:13-21 again—slowly.** What catches your attention the most in these verses? What emotions are stirred in you?

4. In these verses...
 - What was the need described?
 - Where do you find the motivation for acting upon the need?
 - Where do you see the need for acting?
 - What resources were made available to meet the need?
 - What were the results of acting?

5. Looking again at...
 - The motivation for acting
 - The need for acting
 - The resources available
 - The results of acting

Which of these four items is the stumbling block preventing you from greater generosity?

6. How does/can Jesus, His Word, the sacraments, the body of Christ found in your small group help you overcome this stumbling block in your life?

7. As this stumbling block is overcome, how would it change the way you spend your time, talents and treasures?

Outreach

15 minutes

What kind of conversations are you having lately with those who do *not-yet-know* Jesus?

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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