

Weekend message Small group study

complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **4/4/15 – 4/5/15**
 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.4)	Word of God (p.1)	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.

Worship – *Our Redemption Response*

5 minutes

Sing along with and/or follow the lyrics to Rend Collective's song *More Than Conquerors* found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2p8_4NbrckA.

Word of God

45 minutes

Opening Prayer (All Pray Together):

Dear Jesus, Word made flesh, be with us now as we study Your Holy Word. Let it be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, according to Your promise. Since Your Word is living and active, we ask You to speak to us through it. Teach us, rebuke us, correct us, and train us in your righteousness so that we may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. In Your name we pray. Amen.

1. One individual reads Romans 8:31-39 (next page) *very slowly* from the ESV translation.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who

is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. For one minute, reflect on the passage silently. Everyone writes down the word or phrase that catches their attention.
3. Each shares the word or phrase they chose with the group. (Don't say why you chose it—just share the word or phrase)
4. Another person reads the same passage slowly from The Message.

³¹⁻³⁹ So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture:

They kill us in cold blood because they hate you.

We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one.

None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely *nothing* can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

5. For three to five minutes, reflect on the passage silently. Everyone writes down where this passage touches their life today.
6. Each shares.
7. The passage is read a third time (another reader and from the New Living Translation).

³¹ What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³² Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? ³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

8. For three to five minutes, reflect on the passage silently. Write down: from what I have heard and shared, what does God want me to do or be? Does God invite me to change in any way?

9. Each shares.

Prayer

20 minutes

Close with a circle prayer, where each person prays for the person on their right (aloud or silently), naming what was shared in step #9. Close together with the Lord's Prayer.

Outreach

15 minutes

How and to whom may you share the good news of our Risen Savior this week?

Equipping *for coordinating next week's meeting...*

5 minutes

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