

Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on 4/11/15 – 4/12/15
- 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.2)	Equipping (p. 5)	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

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 1:1-2:2 ESV

Worship – Our Redemption Response

20 minutes

All: Dear Lord, an honest confession is all You ask. No hoops to jump through, no self-flagellation, and certainly no pay-offs or imprisonment. Just an acknowledgement of the truth—truth that You already know, truth that we have to admit. There is nothing we can do to earn Your forgiveness. We can only surrender to it. Christ died for sinners while we were sinners. The price has already been paid. Here we are, Lord, sinners in need of a Savior. Purify us with the blood of Jesus. In Your faithfulness and justice, please forgive us and make us clean. Amen.

adapted from *The NIV Worship Bible*, © 2000, p.1649.

Word of God

30 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. **Reread 1 John 1:1-4** (from the Introduction).

“which we have heard...
which we have seen with our eyes...
which we looked upon ...
and have touched with our hands...
and we have seen it...
and testify to it...
and proclaim to you...
that which we have seen...
and heard...
we proclaim also to you...”

Why was John so repetitive? What's the significance? A lot of action on the part of the early church, huh? Why does all of the above preface “**so that**” (middle of 1:3)?

4. **Reread 1 John 1:5-10.**

“...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.” (1 John 1:5b ESV)

- A. When you feel lost and directionless...
When you feel discouraged and frustrated...
When you feel confused and at a loss...
When you've stepped into the darkness of sin...

How does “God is light” move you to walk in His light?
How does “God is light” revive your spirit?
How does “God is light” reveal truth into your particular situation?
How does “God is light” lead you to confession and repentance?



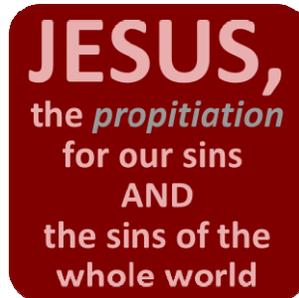
- B. Who in your life needs to know that “God is light”? How may you proclaim “God is light” to another this minute, this hour, this day, this week?

Blessings to you as you walk in the light of God...and be reminded that it is because of the blood of Jesus that you are able to walk in His light!

5. Read 1 John 2:1-6.

“[Jesus] is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2.2 ESV)

Propitiation - that big word we use in our everyday life, right? Ha! But seriously, it is one to know.



In short, propitiation is a 2-part word. On one hand it involves appeasing the wrath of God because of our sin (which separates us from the Father who is perfect, holy, sinless) and it involves reconciling our relationship with God the Father. Jesus did this on the cross. Jesus paid the penalty of our sins, of the sins of the whole world, on the cross to appease the Father's wrath. And for those who believe in Him, Jesus, serving as a bridge, reconciled our relationship with the Father—the Father who sent His Son for us. For an illustration of this, see the bridge analogy found at <http://bridgeanalogy.blogspot.com/>.

- A. What's your take away with this word?
- B. Sharing this “big” word, pretty much involves sharing the good news of Jesus. Who may you share this word with today? Your child, your friend, your neighbor, your co-worker? Feel free to use the bridge analogy illustration (found at <http://bridgeanalogy.blogspot.com/>) as a help.

questions 3, 4, 5 are excerpts from <http://craigmates.blogspot.com/>

Outreach

15 minutes

As an invitational, missional “small groups” guy, I love how John's invitation to fellowship (Christian community) is encouraged. And not only is it encouraged, but added to their most important fellowship with the Father and Jesus, it is what brought John and friends complete joy.



What about you and your small group? Have the invitations to others to join your community dried up? Has your group grown cliquish, closed, comfortable? Are you missing out on the joy John and company experienced?

What may God be calling you and your group to as a next step?

- Invite a person today to join your group?
- Multiply into 2 groups (or more) so that more room may be made for newcomers?
- Something else?

Pray over this. Seek God's direction. I pray that you and the company you keep will also know such complete joy.

excerpt from <http://craigmates.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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