

## Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **5/2/15 – 5/3/15**
- 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.2)	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

John 15:1-17 (ESV) - <sup>1</sup> “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

<sup>12</sup> “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants,[a] for the servant[b] does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

## Worship – Our Redemption Response

5 minutes

Father, we are Yours prayer  
based on John 15:5, Genesis 1:27.

**All:**

**Father,**  
**We are yours.**  
**We cannot be bought; you paid the great price.**  
**We bow down as servants; you lift us up friends.**

**Jesus,**  
**We are good.**  
**Made in your image, channeling your style.**  
**We bow down as sinners, you lift us up saints.**

**Spirit,**  
**We are called.**  
**You've got our number, you speak our names**  
**We bow down as failures, you lift us up**  
**to God**  
**as his precious children. Amen.**

adapted from [engageworship.org](http://engageworship.org), Sam Hargreave's *Father we are Yours 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 John 15:1-17** (from the introduction). What skills have you developed only to abandon later?
4. What relationships have you begun only to walk away from later?
5. Why did you do this? Knowing what you know now, would you make a different decision?

6. According to Jesus' Words, what is essential for a fruitful life?
7. If we remain/abide in Jesus, what is His promise?
8. If we wander away from Jesus, what is His warning?

## Outreach

15 minutes

Read Revelation 2:12-17.

"But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality." (Revelation 2:14 ESV)



Here's your word for today - "syncretism." It is the attempt to bring together different religious schools of thought. In our culture, it probably sounds like a neat idea. Seems like this is where our world is heading. This way everyone can get along. Right? Problem – it doesn't work!

An example - If you believe in Jesus, hear His words, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6 ESV) The good news of us being saved from sin and death only came because of what Jesus did on the cross for us. The moment you add an alternative method, it is no longer the good news as taught in the Bible. Jesus saved us because of His 100% work. We didn't do even 0.000001% of a good work to earn our salvation.

Just looking at every other religion in the world and Christianity, you have this difference...a BIG one. Every other religion somehow teaches that you need to do something to earn your salvation. Christianity teaches that it was all Jesus who did the saving work.

So stepping back...when you add a practice from another religion, as noted in this letter to the Church in Pergamum, it becomes a stumbling block to the faith in Jesus originally taught. It tears apart the truth found only in Jesus.

In what specific ways are you finding such occurrences in our culture, in our communities...in our churches? In what ways may God be calling you to repent—to return to Him and to the Truth? In what ways is God calling you to follow Him and Him alone, even when those around you are thinking differently? **How may you share the Truth and good news found only in Jesus to the world around you? As individuals? As a small group?**

adapted from <http://craigmattes.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**

	Prayer	Outreach	Word of God	Equipping	Worship - Our Redemption Response
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.