

## Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **5/23/15 – 5/24/15**
- 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.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

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (ESV) –

“The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ And I answered, ‘O Lord God, you know.’ <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.’

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.’ <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, ‘Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.” <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy,

and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

### Worship – Our Redemption Response

5 minutes

For this worship time, rotate through different group members reading the italicized lines. Have the entire group respond with the bolded lines.

*I have everything I need! I have His love, I have His forgiveness, I have His joy. He gives to me exactly what I need when I need it.*

#### **The Lord is my shepherd. (Psalm 23:1)**

*Worry no longer consumes me. God is in control. He gives me peace and I find rest in His love.*

#### **The Lord is my shepherd.**

*Death will one day knock on my door, but I will fear not. He walks with me, holding my hand, showing me the way home.*

#### **The Lord is my shepherd.**

*The devil has no hold on me. God has cleared the way for me to live in freedom. He invites me to eat and drink at the family table.*

#### **The Lord is my shepherd.**

*He heals all my wounds. He bandages my bleeding heart, He soothes my aching spirit, He kisses away the hurt.*

#### **The Lord is my shepherd.**

*This place is not my home. But heaven is my forever home. And there I will live with the God who has loved me passionately, cared for me tenderly, and prepared for me tirelessly that eternity.*

#### **The Lord is my shepherd. Amen.**

### 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 Ezekiel 37:1-14** (found in the introduction). Briefly, describe a dry time you've experienced in your spiritual life—a time when you desperately sought refreshment in God. What did you learn from that experience?
  
4. Jesus promised us: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, "Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." (John 7:37b-39 ESV) Briefly, describe a time in your life when Jesus refreshed you, where out from your heart flowed a river of living water. What did you learn from that experience?
  
5. What is the meaning of God's question to Ezekiel, "can these bones live?"
  
6. **Read Acts 2:1-41**. In these verses where do you find the promise of God fulfilled on Pentecost? How does this promise impact us today?

### Outreach

15 minutes

How does God's promise and Peter's words in Act 2:38-39 impact and inspire your witness of Jesus to your community?

### 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**

	<b>Prayer</b>	<b>Outreach</b>	<b>Word of God</b>	<b>Equipping</b>	<b>Worship - Our Redemption Response</b>
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.