

Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **6/13/15 – 6/14/15**
- 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.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

Take turns reading through the following—from Ephesians 2 (MSG):

It wasn't so long ago that we were mired in that old stagnant life of sin.

We let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell us how to live.

We filled our lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience.

We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat.

It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us.

Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us.

He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it.

It's God's gift from start to finish!

Now because of Christ—dying that death, shedding that blood—you who were once out of it altogether are in on everything.

He tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance. Christ brought us together through his death on the cross.

Through him we... share the same Spirit and have equal access to the Father. We're no longer strangers or outsiders.

We belong here... a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

Amen.

excerpt from engageworship.org, Sam Hargreave's "Ephesians 2 Reading".

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. Read through the following texts. Take turns reading each section. While reading, keep these questions in the back of your mind: **1) Where do we find good news in these verses? 2) How do these verses connect together? 3) What is God teaching me in these verses?**
 - 1 John 2:1-2 (ESV): "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."
 - Genesis 31:45-50 (ESV): "So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. ⁴⁶ And Jacob said to his kinsmen, 'Gather stones.' And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap. ⁴⁷ Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed. ⁴⁸ Laban said, 'This heap is a witness between you and me today.' Therefore he named it Galeed, ⁴⁹ and Mizpah, for he said, 'The LORD watch between you and me, when we are out of one another's sight. ⁵⁰ If you oppress my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, although no one is with us, see, God is witness between you and me.'"
 - Joshua 4:4-7 (ESV): "Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe. ⁵ And Joshua said to them, 'Pass on before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of

you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, ⁶ that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, “What do those stones mean to you?” ⁷ then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.”

- Psalm 130:3 (ESV): “If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?”
- John 1:29 (ESV): “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”

Now discuss the 3 questions together.

Outreach

15 minutes

“False weights and unequal measures—the Lord detests double standards of every kind.”
(Proverbs 20:10 NLT)

Measuring things unfairly—something we’ve all done. If you think you are the exception, then I’d drop 1 John 1:8 (NLT) on you, “If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.” Who does Jesus’ words, “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own?” (Matthew 7:3 NLT), NOT speak to?



What other forms of double standards do we fall victim to and/or thrust unjustly upon others?

How may removing a double standard that you are the cause of help another to find renewed life and maybe even to know the freedom we have in Jesus?

excerpt from www.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.