



## Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **9/26/15-9/27/15.**
- a meeting agenda organized per St. Paul core values
- estimated for a 90-minute meeting

## Week Two – Called, Connected, Community

**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.6)	Word of God (p.3)	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**

#### Hand Prayers

To aid our focus whilst praying, we will make and hold physical positions with our hands. We do this to engage our bodies within our prayers, allowing our minds to focus more freely on what we are praying about. The **bolded type** can be prayed all together or have different people in the group take turns with each different hand prayer.

#### *Praying Hands*

First place your palms and fingers flat together, with your hands pointing upwards; in the position traditionally adopted to pray.

**We come to be still before God**

**Our hands together, stopping us undertaking physical work.**

**We take up the work of an intercessor, bringing our earthly concerns before our Heavenly Father**

**Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness.  
You set me at liberty when I was in trouble;  
Have mercy on me and hear my prayer.**

[Psalm 4.1]

*Fists*

Separate your hands, and clench them together to form fists. Hold them as tightly as you can, so that your focus is on your fists.

**We pray for those parts of the world afflicted by violence.  
We remember those in violent relationships.  
Where talking has been replaced by fighting.  
Where peace has been replaced by aggression and unrest**

*Wounded hand*

Open both your fists. Hold your left hand so your palm faces towards you. Take the index finger on your right hand and push it hard into the centre of your left palm.

**Jesus' hands were pierced as he was crucified  
He was wounded to restore our relationship with God  
He suffered to bring reconciliation and justice to the world.  
We focus on situations and places where that reconciliation is needed, both in our own lives, our community and the wider world.**

*Open hands*

Open both of your hands, hold them open in front of you with your palms facing upwards.

**We recognize that all of humanity needs to receive good things.  
God provides for each of us physically, emotionally and spiritually  
We ask God for the things we need, and the things needed by others**

*Holding hands*

Turn over your left hand, with your right hand gently take hold of your left as if holding someone else's hand.

**Jesus embodied God's compassion  
He met with the sick and the dying  
He promised comfort to those who mourn  
We pray for those who are sick, suffering or mourning  
We pray that they will know God's healing, comfort, compassion and love**

*Praying hands*

We return our hands to the first position we held. Palms and fingers flat together, hands pointing upwards; the position traditionally adopted for prayer.

**We remember God's promise to hear our prayers  
Praying to the Father, in the name of the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

excerpt from [engageworship.org](http://engageworship.org), Andy Stinson's "Hand Prayers".

## 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 John 17:20-21.** How would you explain Jesus' words from verses 20-21 in your own words? What blessings flow from staying connected to Christ?
4. What is the reality of being disconnected? (Hint: see John 15:5.)
5. How do you stay connected to Jesus?
6. What are tangible ways we as a group can help one another stay connected to Jesus?

## Outreach

15 minutes

Still reflecting on John 17:20-21, what are tangible ways we as a group can carrying the message of Jesus so that others would believe in Him?

## Prayer

20 minutes

In your triads, 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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