

Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **10/10/15-11/5/15**.
- a meeting agenda organized per St. Paul core values
- estimated for a 90-minute meeting

Encourage One Another in the Confidence of Christ

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.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

(Worship Champion: be sure to read Psalm 95 (ESV) ahead of time and prepare for your closing prayer before your group meeting.)

- All:**
- Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;**
 - let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**
 - ² **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;**
 - let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**
 - ³ **For the LORD is a great God,**
 - and a great King above all gods.**
 - ⁴ **In his hand are the depths of the earth;**
 - the heights of the mountains are his also.**
 - ⁵ **The sea is his, for he made it,**
 - and his hands formed the dry land.**
 - ⁶ **Oh come, let us worship and bow down;**
 - let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**
 - ⁷ **For he is our God,**
 - and we are the people of his pasture,**
 - and the sheep of his hand.**
 - Today, if you hear his voice,**
 - ⁸ **do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,**

as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
⁹ when your fathers put me to the test
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.
¹⁰ For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, “They are a people who go astray in their heart,
and they have not known my ways.”
¹¹ Therefore I swore in my wrath,
“They shall not enter my rest.”

Adore champion: close with 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. **Read Hebrews 3:12-19.** From what you know of Moses' time, recall a moment in Scripture of those who heard and yet rebelled against God? What was the consequence of their rebellion? (Hints: see Exodus 32, Numbers 14, Numbers 16)
4. How does Paul's warning, his recollection of Moses and the Israelites, apply to our lives?
5. In verses 12 and 13, what words of wisdom did Paul share to counteract rebellious hearts?
What do these words say to our local congregations?
What do these words say to our small group?
What do these words say to you?
6. What good news do you find in verse 14?

Outreach

15 minutes

[Jesus shared with His disciples,] "Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks. The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat! He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn. But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready." (Luke 12:35-38 NLT)

2,000 years before Arnold coined "I'll be back" (sorry, couldn't help myself), Jesus declared His return.

As we meet *Jesus: Returner*, let's look at the good news for us.

First, even after Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension, He never left His people. He shared this promise in Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT), "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. AND BE SURE OF THIS: I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE [my caps]."

Second, He promised that when He went away, He would send the Holy Spirit to be with us. (John 16:7).

Third, He offered these words of encouragement hope and love to His followers, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am." (John 14:1-3 NLT)

With this good news come questions for our lives.

What does it mean to...

- be dressed for service?
- be ready?
- carry out His instructions?
- be prepared?
- be entrusted with what we've been given?

And considering Jesus' return...

Where is there the urgency to introduce people to Jesus--the one who saves those who believe in Him from sin and death?

How does this impact your call from Jesus to "go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you"?

Take time to ponder these questions. Discuss them with your small group.

Excerpt from <http://craigmattes.blogspot.com/2015/09/read-luke-1235-48.html>.

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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