

## Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **10/24/15-10/25/15.**
- a meeting agenda organized per St. Paul core values
- estimated for a 90-minute meeting

### Theme: The Need for Constant Reform

**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.2)	Word of God (p.1)	Equipping (p. 3)	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**

Psalm 51:1-17 will be read verse by verse (by the Worship champion) with breaks in between. Before the next verse is spoken, time is open for anyone to pray something (aloud or silently) that inspires him or her from that particular verse. The Worship champion to close 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. Are you more cucumber or more pickle, and why? ☺

4. Define “reform” in the general sense. Is there a need for ongoing “reform”? Why?

5. Read Romans 3:22-26 (NIRV):

*<sup>22</sup> We are made right with God by putting our faith in Jesus Christ. This happens to all who believe. It is no different for the Jews than for the Gentiles. <sup>23</sup> Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God’s glory. <sup>24</sup> The free gift of God’s grace makes us right with him. Christ Jesus paid the price to set us free. <sup>25</sup> God gave Christ as a sacrifice to pay for sins through the spilling of his blood. So God forgives the sins of those who have faith. God did all this to prove that he does what is right. He is a God of mercy. So he did not punish for their sins the people who lived before Jesus lived. <sup>26</sup> God did all this to prove in our own time that he does what is right. He also makes right with himself those who believe in Jesus.*

The concept of “imputed righteousness” (being made right, good, holy from an outside source) is found in verse 24 – “The free gift of God’s grace makes us right with him.” Why is this a critical element of the Gospel?

6. From an April 1, 2015 Barna poll\*:

“Many adults believe... that they will go to heaven as a result of their good works. Broadly speaking, this is the most common perception among Americans who have never made a commitment to Jesus—and it is also quite common among self-identified Christians. In this category, people believe they will go to heaven because they have tried to obey the Ten Commandments (5%), as a result of being basically a good person (8%)...”

How do these thoughts influence our ministry of sharing the good news of Jesus today?

7. Do all good people go to heaven? What does Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV) say on the matter?

*<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

\*<https://www.barna.org/barna-update/culture/714-what-do-americans-believe-about-jesus-5-popular-beliefs#.Vi4fbrerTIU>

## Outreach

15 minutes

Who in your life believes they will go to heaven because of their good works? How may you share the truth of God’s Word and good news found only in Jesus to them?

## 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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