

## Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on 11/1/14 – 11/2/14
- 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.2)	Word of God (p.2)	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.

### Introduction

1 John 3:2 (NIV) states, “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he [Jesus] appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” That is our hope—that we shall be like Jesus, knowing the Father and perfectly obedient to Him. But while we wait His appearing our attitude should be like His attitude. Together as a group we will look at what God’s Word says on this subject matter.

### Worship – Our Redemption Response

5 minutes

**All:** Dear Jesus, we exalt Your glorious name. You alone defeated the enemy. You alone paid the full price for our sins. You are exalted to the highest place, and Your name is above every name. One day every knee will bow before You in worship and every tongue will confess that You are Lord, to the glory of the Father. Even now we bow at Your feet [if able, feel free to bow at this time], confess Your name and plead with You to transform us into Your image. Amen!

adapted from Maranatha’s *The NIV Worship Bible*, © 2000, p. 1580

## Word of God

45 minutes

1. How did you see God at work in your life this week?
  
2. **Read Philippians 2:1-11.** What is your response to **one** of the following questions:
  - a. What encouragement do you have from being united with Christ?
  - b. What comfort do you have from Jesus' love?
  - c. How would you describe your fellowship with the Spirit?
  - d. What are you most tender and compassionate about?
  
3. How is Jesus' attitude described in Philippians 2:1-11?
  
4. In what of Jesus' attitude are you most challenged to mirror in your life?
  
5. Going back to 1 John (from the introduction), **read 1 John 3:1-3.** What good news is found in these verses with regards to adopting Jesus' attitude and how He makes this possible in our lives?
  
6. How can this good news, the truth found in Scripture, equip you to mature in the area you identified in question 4? How can we support one another to take on Jesus' attitude?

## Outreach

15 minutes

<sup>17</sup> On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal.<sup>18</sup> And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus,<sup>19</sup> but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus.<sup>20</sup> And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you. (Luke 5:17-20 ESV)

1. What impresses you about the four friends in this story?
  
2. In verse 20, what do you think it means "and when he saw their faith...?"

3. Where do you see compassion being exercised in the passage?
  
4. There are many ways to “lower our friends down to Jesus.” Research from around the world conducted by Missions International has found that one of the most important elements of groups that attract and win lost people to Christ relates to prayer. Four issues surfaced related to the small group’s prayer:
  - #1 Daily prayer for members of the group
  - #2 Devotional time spent with God each day
  - #3 Focused prayer related to the small group meeting
  - #4 Prayer daily for not-yet-Christians by name

What **one** of these four can (will) you begin incorporating into your prayer life?

adapted from Missions International's 2005 *Groups Ablaze (SG)2 Certified Trainer's Guide*.

## 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					

**P**rayer leader – Leads group prayer time

**O**utreach leader – Leads the charge of outreach (serving, inviting, filling the empty chair, etc.)

**W**ord of God leader – Leads the Bible study time, encourages application of God’s Word to life

**E**quipping Leader – Coordinates and reminds who will lead the different meeting components.

**W**orship (Our Redemption Response) Leader – Leads worship time during meeting.