

## Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **11/22/14 – 11/23/14**
- 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.4)	Outreach (p.3)	Word of God (p.2)	Equipping (p. 4)	Worship - Our Redemption Response - (p.2)
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

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

### Introduction

<sup>31-33</sup> “When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left.

<sup>34-36</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what’s coming to you in this kingdom. It’s been ready for you since the world’s foundation. And here’s why:

I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me.’

<sup>37-40</sup> “Then those ‘sheep’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’ Then the King will say, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.’

<sup>41-43</sup> “Then he will turn to the ‘goats,’ the ones on his left, and say, ‘Get out, worthless goats! You’re good for nothing but the fires of hell. And why? Because—

I was hungry and you gave me no meal, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was homeless and you gave me no bed, I was shivering and you gave me no clothes, Sick and in prison, and you never visited.’

<sup>44</sup> “Then those ‘goats’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or sick or in prison and didn’t help?’

<sup>45</sup> “He will answer them, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me—you failed to do it to me.’

<sup>46</sup> “Then those ‘goats’ will be herded to their eternal doom, but the ‘sheep’ to their eternal reward.”

(Matthew 25:31-46 MSG)

## Worship – Our Redemption Response

5 minutes

*Instructions for the worship component leader:* Explain to the group that you are going to say a line, to which you want them to respond “**Jesus is Lord.**” The interesting bit comes in that they say the response louder if your hand is higher, softer if your hand is lower. Start with your hand held high, and then gradually move it lower, so the group ends up speaking the phrase in a hushed whisper. Then begin to raise your hand in the second half, building the response to a joyful shout. If you like, go through this worship activity twice. This would be great activity to include children.

***(gradually getting quieter)***

Equal with God:

**Jesus is Lord**

Emptied himself:

**Jesus is Lord**

Came as a slave:

**Jesus is Lord**

Found as a man:

**Jesus is Lord**

Humbly obeyed:

**Jesus is Lord**

Went to his death:

**Jesus is Lord**

Death on a cross:

**Jesus is Lord**

***(getting louder)***

God raised him up:

**Jesus is Lord**

Gave him the name:

**Jesus is Lord**

Higher than all:

**Jesus is Lord**

Every knee bow:

**Jesus is Lord**

All tongues confess:

**Jesus is Lord**

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## Word of God

45 minutes

1. How did you see God at work in your life this week?

2. **Look at Matthew 25:31-46 again** (the introduction verses). As a group, practice the **Probe It!** Method of Bible meditation by applying the S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. questions (below) to these verses. Don't worry about covering every question. Don't force responses. You may find responses to questions overlap each other.

- S – **Is there a sin to confess?** (Think in terms of your particular congregation. Think in terms of yourself.)
- P – **Is there a promise to claim?** What does Jesus promise in these verses?
- A – **Is there an attitude to change?** Apathy, selfishness, ignorance, etc.
- C – **Is there a command to obey?**
- E – **Is there an example to follow?**
- P – **Is there a prayer to pray?**
- E – **Is there an error to avoid?**
- T – **Is there a truth to believe?**
- S – **Is there something to praise God for?** Where do you find the good news of Jesus in these verses?

## Outreach

15 minutes

### Empowering leadership for future group growth and multiplication

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

Groups which do well with "Empowering Leadership" are ones where the group leader is constantly looking for and encouraging the leadership potential in others. This begins with simply being observant of people's abilities and encouraging them to develop the gifts and abilities that God has given them. On the other hand, groups which do not empower leadership within the group are ones where the leader does everything by himself or herself. To improve your group's health on this measure, ask God to open your eyes to the potential of others, then increasingly encourage their gifts and involve them in ministry and leadership within the group. *Each of these weekend message small group studies offers this opportunity to empower leadership through the equipping component.* As you do this, encourage as many members as possible to consider becoming leaders themselves.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 drives this point home when it states, “Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.”

In the New Testament, Barnabus was a shining example of the Ecclesiastes passage.

It was Barnabus who took Paul under his wing when the other apostles were skeptical about the validity of his conversion. It was Barnabus who saw the potential in John Mark and picked him up when Paul had rejected him. As Leslie Flynn points out, “Do we realize that had not Barnabus used his gift of encouragement we might be missing half of the New Testament books?” (Peter Wagner 1979:154)

1. What are the advantages of experiencing Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Christianity?
2. What are the things that prevent us from being a Barnabus in someone’s life?
3. What are the “prices” and “pay-offs” of raising up future leaders? In other words, what price will we pay by raising up future leaders and what are the pay-offs (benefits) of cultivating future leaders?
4. What issues hinder our own church from having a greater *Empowering Leadership Culture*?”

**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**

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