

Weekend message Small group study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **12/06/14 – 12/07/14**
- 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

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1 ESV)

“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” (Mark 1:1 ESV)

Worship – *Our Redemption Response*

5 minutes

All: **O Holy God, Your Word proclaims two “beginnings,” marking the most momentous epochs in history. The first heralded the creation of the human race—a people beautiful, pure, powerful, as You had intended them to be. Yet, O God, how soon we became disfigured, defiled and diminished, sinful and lost. But then began the second great epoch, “the beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” Redemption, restoration, the fresh start, the new birth! Grace! We thank you, Lord, from our worshipping hearts. Amen!**

adapted from Maranatha’s *The NIV Worship Bible*, © 2000, p. 1340.

Word of God

45 minutes

1. How has God been *messing* with you lately?
2. The prayer read in the worship component commented on the two “beginnings.” In your own words how would you compare and contrast the beginnings found in Genesis 1:1 and Mark 1:1?
3. How did/does Jesus provide a new beginning in *your* life? How would you communicate that to one who does not yet know Him? Take some time to craft what you would communicate right now. Work on this for the next 5-10 minutes. Use the space provided to write down your thoughts.
4. As time allows, go around and beginning sharing what you’ve drafted. Share feedback (of course in a gracious way) with each other. Discuss what changes you would make to your original draft and why you would make those changes.

Outreach

15 minutes

Let’s take a page out of the life of Matthew from Luke 5:27-31 ESV):

²⁷ After this [Jesus] went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, “Follow me.”²⁸ And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

²⁹ And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them.³⁰ And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”³¹ And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelberg put it this way in *Becoming a Contagious Christian*:

So if we're going to impact our world for Christ, the most effective approach will be through friendships with those who need to be reached. We'll have to get close to them so that they can see that we genuinely care about them individually and that we have their best interests in mind. Over time that will earn their trust and respect. (1994:97)

1. What impresses you about Matthew (Levi) from this passage?
2. What evangelism "principles" do we see operating in this passage?
3. What are some ways Christians can seek to cultivate friendships with those who are not-yet-Christians?
4. Of the ideas discussed from question 3, which one seems the most appealing and most doable for you? What will be your next step? With whom "outside the door" is God calling you to be more intentional? In other words, how is God calling you to be more like Matthew?

[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

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