



**WEEK OF August 20 – August 26 / GROUP TIME GUIDE**

This guide is given to aide in the facilitation of leading your small group. It is only an aid for you to experience Christ together.

## **ABIDE: BIG PICTURE TOGETHER**

**Start with Purpose** – It’s always important to hear from God’s Word why we are doing what we are doing! **Have someone read aloud**, Ephesians 2:19-22

Discuss these questions in your group: Why do we need one another to fulfill this scripture? How does small group fit into this passage? What’s the point of us doing life together?

## **ABIDE: LISTEN TOGETHER**

This time of listening to God together is vitally important as the Body of Christ. Let this time lead you into praying together and allowing Jesus to speak to you as a group.

- If you want, sing a song together either with an iPod or with somebody leading from the group.
- This may be a time to simply gaze upon God individually too for a moment and waiting for Him to bring to mind things that need to be said to each other.
- Spend a few moments listening to God through scripture by allowing the Word to speak to and through your group. Feel free to ask group members to use scriptures to encourage another. Nothing is more powerful than using God’s Truth to encourage
- and edify another. God uses His Word through His Body to build up the Body.

## **CONNECT: LOVE TOGETHER**

Use this time to catch up with everyone and ask if there are any prayer requests or matters needing attention. It can be uncomfortable for people to share about themselves and many will want to hear from others, don’t let them ignore their personal needs! This is a time for Jesus to shepherd your group through the group. This is one of the few times during the week where our church can accomplish the “one another” lifestyle. Make sure to try and see if there has been any progress in recent requests, praise is equally as important as prayers

*“...spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” —Hebrews 10:24*

After you’ve prayed, let them know that our group meets all the time. Continue this week to show love by meeting needs. We all are called to pastor the church.

**CONNECT: TEACH TOGETHER:** *\*The aim of these questions is to facilitate conversation and good discussion, don't move too fast to get through them all. Let the Spirit lead your group through whatever these questions prompt.*

Ask someone in the group (or a few people) to read **1 John 5:11-13** out loud and then answer and discuss the following together:

1. We kicked off a new series this past weekend closing out 1 John with "5 Final Truths." The first truth we looked at was, "we can know we have eternal life." Out of 1 John 5:11-13, Pastor Vance looked to answer four questions, the first being, "What is Eternal Life?"
  - a. **Pastor Vance gave four defining statements about eternal life. Read and discuss these below. What do they mean? Why do they matter for us today?**
    - i. *Eternal life is about a quality of life more than a quantity of life.*
    - ii. *Eternal life is a gift you must receive not a reward you must earn.*
    - iii. *Eternal life is a present reality not simply a future possibility.*
    - iv. *Eternal life is a Person, not a place.*
2. The second question Pastor Vance looked to answer was "How can I be certain I have eternal life?" In one or another, you have either experienced such doubt, or have walked someone through this doubt. Nonetheless we know what it's life.
  - a. **Pastor Vance gave us three questions to answer the question, "Do I have Jesus?" Discuss and respond to these questions:**
    - i. *Is there a pursuit of intimacy with Jesus in my life?*
    - ii. *Is there a pattern of obedience to Jesus in my life?*
    - iii. *Is there evidence of the life of Jesus in my life?*
  - b. **From these three questions, how can one be sure if they do or do not have eternal life?**
3. **Thirdly, Pastor Vance addressed the question, "Can I lose eternal life?" How do we answer this question? Can we lose our salvation or is it secured? How?**
4. The last question Pastor Vance answered was, "How can someone receive God's gift of eternal life?"
  - a. **How does someone really come to receive this gift of grace? 1 John 5:13 says, "these things I have written to you who *believe* in the name of the Son of God," what does that mean?**
  - b. **When's the last time you spoke to someone about receiving God's free gift of grace?**

**SHARE: MOBILIZE TOGETHER**

1. Pray for each other, what needs are in your group that you need to bring before God?
2. Pray for those that are on the journey with you. For strength, perseverance, and joy.
3. Pray for a lost friend, family member, or coworker who is in your circle of influence. Pray for those that are close or far from taking that faith step into a relationship with Christ.

