



**WEEK OF August 27 – September 2 / GROUP TIME GUIDE**

This guide is given to aide in the facilitation of leading your small group. It is only an aide 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**, Mark 10:29-30

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

*“...pray for one another.” — James 5:16*

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 5:14-17** out loud and then answer and discuss the following together:

1. This week we focused on the second final truth from 1 John which was, "We know that God answers prayer." This was a powerful message on the reality and gift of prayer. Before you go any further, talk around your prayer life as it is right now.
  - a. **As of right now, where has your prayer life been? Why?**
  - b. **What are some practical ways we can keep prayer fresh and active in our lives? Share some ideas or solutions!**
2. Pastor Vance gave us three statements that sum up how John teaches us to pray in 1 John 5:14-17. The first statement was, "We should pray confidently." From this point, we learned that we can do two things confidently as it relates to prayer: confidently approach the Father and confidently expect from the Father. Have someone read Hebrews 4:15-16 and discuss the following:
  - a. **What does it mean to pray confidently?**
  - b. **Pastor Vance taught that we can confidently approach and expect from our Father. What does that mean for us today practically?**
3. The second statement was, "We should pray humbly." This was taught out of the section of scripture that states, "*if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*" William Barclay said this concerning prayer, "We are so apt to think that prayer is asking God for what we want, whereas true prayer is asking God for what He wants. Prayer is not only talking to God; even more, it is listening to Him."
  - a. **What does it mean or look like to pray humbly? How do we pray both humbly AND confidently?**
  - b. **Discuss William Barclay's quote, do you relate to it at all? What does it mean that prayer is not only talking to God but listening to him?**
4. Finally, Pastor Vance taught that, "We should pray for others." From this point we learned that prayer is not only to be practiced for our personal needs, but first applied to helping other brothers and sisters in Christ.
  - a. **Do you pray for others? How can we be more intentional about praying for other believers?**
5. **Take a moment and pray for one another right now. You can split up in smaller groups, 1 on 1's, or stay together, but take this time to lift each other up to the Father and practice this principle of praying for one another!**

**SHARE: MOBILIZE TOGETHER**

1. Pray for those that are on the journey with you. For strength, perseverance, and joy.
2. 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.

