



## WEEK OF September 10 – September 16 / 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**, Acts 2:42-47

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

*"...bear with one another." — Ephesians 4:2*

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 **Mark 12:28-31** out loud and then answer and discuss the following together:

1. This week Pastor Vance Kicked off our new series, "LOVE Life: God's perspective on marriage, dating, and singleness." He began his sermon by reading about the longest known study of adult life ever conducted. This study, lasting 75 years long by Harvard University, concluded that good relationships keep us happier and healthier... that the biggest predictor of our happiness and fulfillment overall in life is love.
  - a. **Would you agree that the relationships in your life are one of the main causes of happiness?**
  - b. **From a biblical standpoint, why do you think it is that way?**
2. Pastor Vance taught from Mark 12:28-31 the big idea, "*Before love in my life can ever be right, Jesus must be the love of my life.*" He then shared with us two defining statements, the first being, "*A love relationship with Jesus is the most important relationships in life.*"
  - a. **What does it mean that a love relationship with Jesus is the most important relationship in life?**
  - b. **Pastor Vance said, "More than anything else in my life I am to seek to find joy in relational intimacy with God." Why is it so important that we seek to find our joy and happiness in God alone?**
  - c. **Is your relationship with Jesus more important than anything else in your life? Why or why not?**
3. Pastor Vance explained that there were two groups of people that cannot answer yes to the last question above: Those who do not have a relationship with Jesus & those who have a relationship with Jesus but have allowed other things to take first place in their lives.
  - a. **What are some indications that things have replaced Jesus' rightful place in your life?**
  - b. **How can we guard against other things creeping into our love relationships with Jesus?**
4. The second point Pastor Vance taught was, "*Every other relationship in life finds its place after a love relationship with Jesus.*"
  - a. **Why does our relationship with Jesus affect all other relationships in our lives?**
  - b. **What does that mean for us and our relationships today? How should we view and treat them in light of this?**

### **SHARE: MOBILIZE TOGETHER**

1. Pray for those that have drifted away from their relationship with Jesus.
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.
3. Pray for Houston and the southern Florida, for the victims of both hurricane Harvey and Irma.