



WEEK OF September 3 – September 9 / 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**, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

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

"...agree with one another." — 1 Corinthians 1:10

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 5:18-22** out loud and then answer and discuss the following together:

1. This week Pastor Tom closed out our last series of 1 John, "Five Final Truths." In his sermon, he covered the last three truths left in 1 John. The first being, "We can know victory over sin." From this point, Pastor Tom supplied us with three ways we have victory over sin out of this passage: no one born of God sins, God keeps us, and the enemy cannot touch us.
 - a. **What does it mean that no one born of God sins? Does this mean perfection? Explain and discuss.**
 - b. **What does it mean that God keeps us? How does that make a difference in our lives today?**
 - c. **Whose responsibility is it when we sin? Our own or the enemy? What role or part does the enemy play in our sin?**
2. Secondly, Pastor Tom taught that, "We can know we belong to God."
 - a. **What does it mean to belong to God?**
 - b. **How should this reality affect our way of life?**
 - c. **What does it mean when the scripture says, "the whole world lies in the power of the evil one?"**
3. Thirdly, Pastor Tom shared with us the final truth, "We can know what is true." This statement centered around the idea that we can know that what we believe is true, namely that Jesus Christ is God.
 - a. **What truths did John want to communicate to us from these passages?**
 - b. **Why was it so important to understand that Jesus was and is God?**
4. Pastor Tom closed by asking five challenging questions out of this short series on 5 final truths. Go around and discuss these questions with one another, answer them and talk around why they are important:
 - a. **Do you know and believe you have eternal life?**
 - b. **Are you confident that praying matters?**
 - c. **Do you believe you can have victory over sin?**
 - d. **Do you know to whom you belong?**
 - e. **Have you surrendered to what the truth really is?**

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.
3. Pray for Houston and the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

