



WEEK OF September 17 – September 23 / 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**, Colossians 3:12-17

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

"...live in harmony with one another." — Romans 12:16

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.*

Answer and discuss the following together:

1. This week Pastor Vance took a moment to address the reality that we all come from some sort of brokenness. We all vary with different degrees of brokenness, but nonetheless we have all missed the mark in one way or another. The big idea of this week was simply, *"God's amazing grace brings beauty out of brokenness."*
 - a. **How have you experience this "amazing grace"? Give examples, share stories, encourage one another with testimonies of this grace!**
2. Pastor Vance broke down this big idea in three statements, the first being, *"God has a divine design for human beings relationally."* Within this design, we find that God made us in such a way that wholeness as human beings is found from a relationship with God. Furthermore, there are two ways we live out this wholeness: single and married.
 - a. **What was your understanding of God's original design for relationships prior to this message?**
 - b. **How is singleness and marriage two ways we live out this wholeness?**
3. Secondly, Pastor Vance taught, *"Sin corrupted God's divine design and leaves us hopelessly broken."* From this point we learned how sin has broken and twisted God's original design for relationships.
 - a. **How has sin ruined God's divine design for human relationships? What are some examples we learned of relational brokenness?**
 - b. **Why is it so important that we take careful consideration of the boundaries God has etched out for us in His word? (read 1 Thessalonians 4:3)**
4. Finally, we learned, *"The gospel brings hope into that which is broken."* Have someone read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and discuss:
 - a. **What does it mean that we have been "washed... sanctified... justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God"?**
 - b. **What does this truth mean for us today? How does it practical look in our everyday life?**

SHARE: MOBILIZE TOGETHER

1. Pray for those that have experienced relational brokenness, that God would bring healing and beauty out of their ruin.
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.