



WEEK OF October 8 – October 15 / 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**, John 13:34

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

"...comfort one another." — 1 Thessalonians 4:18

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.*

Have someone or a few people in your group read aloud, **Psalm 46**. Afterwards answer and discuss the following together:

1. Pastor Vance opened by informing us that, according to Barna Research Group, the most common question people would like to ask God is, "Why is there pain and suffering in the world?"
 - a. **Have you ever struggled with this question?**
 - b. **Why do you think this is the most common response people have? Why is it relevant and important?**
2. From Psalm 46, Pastor Vance taught us three things we can hold onto in the midst of tragedy. The first simply being, "God Is." Out of this point he shared with us that God is our refuge, strength, and help.
 - a. **What does it mean, and why does it matter, that "God is"?**
 - b. **Discuss God's capacity to be our refuge, strength, and help. How do those practically apply to us today in the midst of tragedy?**
3. The second truth Pastor Vance taught was that, "Evil Exists." From this point he explained the origins of evil from a biblical perspective and how we are to view it in the world. We were comforted with two realities for when evil is on display: God is present and God has a purpose.
 - a. **How did evil come into existence in a Biblical worldview?**
 - b. **How are we to view evil through the lenses of those two realities (God is present and God has a purpose)?**
 - c. **How does the cross perfectly display these realities and relate to evil?**
4. Finally, Pastor Vance taught that "God will one day bring evil to an end." Out of this statement we were taught that evil will not always take place, but in fact will be put to a stop once and for all.
 - a. **Why hasn't God put an end to evil already? (read 2 Peter 3:9).**
 - b. **How does this help us in the midst of tragedy?**

SHARE: MOBILIZE TOGETHER

1. Pray for those affected by the Las Vegas Massacre. For the victims, their families, and the brave first responders.
2. Pray for our city in the aftermath of this mass shooting this previous Sunday night. That the gospel would shine in the midst of this tragedy.
3. Pray for opportunities to have gospel-centered conversations out of this dark time.