



WEEK OF October 16 – October 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**, Romans 12:3-8

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

"...serve one another in love." — Galatians 5:13

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, **Luke 10:27-37**. Then discuss:

1. Jumping back into our series, "LOVE Life," we took a week to talk about our relationships with our neighbor. Pastor Vance shared the big idea that, "My love relationship with Jesus should be evident in His love through me to my neighbor." His goal was to answer two important questions: Who is my neighbor? How do I love my neighbor?
 - a. **Who is our neighbor according to Luke 10:27-37? What definition of neighbor did Pastor Vance give us?**
 - b. **Are there any factors that go into who qualifies as our neighbor? Should race, background, political party, economic status, play a role? Why or Why not?**
2. Pastor Vance focused the majority of his message on the second question asking, "How do I love my neighbor?" He foremost explained that loving our neighbor doesn't actually start with our neighbor, but with Jesus. He shared with us the life application that, "the single greatest thing you and I can do to love our neighbor is be long in the presence of Jesus." Read Galatians 5:13-16, Romans 13:14, and Galatians 5:22-23 and discuss,
 - a. **Why does our loving for our neighbor start with Jesus?**
 - b. **Pastor Vance said that Galatians 5:22-23 was a "9-dimensional description of the life of Jesus Christ" what does that mean?**
 - c. **When did Jesus love his neighbors? When should we?**
3. Pastor Vance gave us three ways that Jesus demonstrates how we should love our neighbor. The first was, "Be aware." From this Pastor Vance taught that God is always at work around you and that we should be looking for opportunities to join in.
 - a. **Are you aware of the people who are around you on a daily basis? What do you feel towards them?**
 - b. **How should we view everyday people? What robs us of this perspective?**
4. The second way Jesus demonstrated love for his neighbor was to, "Be available." Out of this, Pastor Vance shared with us two aspects of availability: we must be flexible with our time and we must be generous with our resources.
 - a. **What sacrifices must we make in order to be available for our neighbor?**
 - b. **Have there been times where someone was in need but you were unwilling to die to your schedule?**
5. Lastly, Pastor Vance taught that we should, "Be invested."
 - a. **What does it mean to be invested in someone?**
 - b. **What did it mean for the Samaritan to be invested? Who can you be investing in?**

SHARE: MOBILIZE TOGETHER

1. Pray for opportunities to have gospel-centered conversations out of this dark time.
2. Pray for our church that their love relationship with Jesus would be evident in His love through them to their neighbors.