



**WEEK OF October 5 – October 11 / 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

*"...stop passing judgment on one another" — Romans 14:13*

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:**

Ask someone in the group (or a few people) to read **Matthew 9:9-12** out loud and then answer and discuss the following together:

1. This weekend we had the privilege of hosting Pastor Jim Britts to hear him teach the first week of Hope for the World 2017. He opened his message by telling a story of asking a girl to prom. From that story he made the point that a “sure why not” response to God and his mission wouldn’t cut it.
  - a. **What did Pastor Jim mean when he said a “sure why not” response?**
  - b. **Why is this response not good enough or as he said, “won’t cut it”?**
2. Pastor Jim shared this powerful quote from J.D. Greear: *“There is a widespread myth in the church that “calling into ministry” is a secondary experience that happens to only a few Christians. Their job is to do the ministry and everyone else’s job is to just show up and foot the bill. Few lies cripple the mission more than that one. Each believer is called to leverage his or her life for the spread of the gospel. The question is no longer whether we are called, only where and how.* “Read this aloud and discuss:
  - a. **What is this “secondary calling” he is referring to?**
  - b. **Why is this mindset so damaging to the kingdom of God? Have you had this mindset before? What is it now after hearing this message?**
3. *“Jesus invitation is from sitting to following”* – this was a quote from Pastor Jim explaining that when we become followers of Jesus, it requires action. This action could, and usually does, include uncomfortable situations and steps of faith. Pastor Jim made a great point that most fear God will call them to somewhere extravagant like Africa – but he assured us to simply start where you live.
  - a. **What action could you take in your life right now, where you work, play, and live, to do something for the Kingdom?**
  - b. **Have you ever had the fear that God would call you somewhere you didn’t want to go? What is your mindset concerning that now?**
  - c. **How does God transform how we see our resources and relationships? How has he changed that for you?**
4. Pastor Jim finished his sermon by giving us three practical ways to get involved in God’s activity in Las Vegas, The West, and the World. He said: We will cultivate a heart for the kingdom by praying, prioritize the Kingdom by sending, and invest in the Kingdom by giving.
  - a. **How can you get involved in God’s activity in Las Vegas, The West, and The World?**
  - b. **What is it that is holding you back from following through on what God is calling you to?**
  - c. **Take some time and discuss in your group what ways God could be leading you to use your time and talents. Help one another think outside of the box and encourage each other to pursue those avenues!**

## **SHARE: MOBILIZE TOGETHER**

1. Pray for the Kingdom of God to spread all over the world. Specifically, that God would use Hope Church in Las Vegas, The West, and The World.
2. Pray for our partners in and around the world. That they would be strengthened and encouraged.
3. Pray that God would send people into the world to be missionaries and church planters.