



WEEK OF December 3 – December 9 / GROUP TIME GUIDE

This guide is given to aid 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, Ephesians 4:12-16**

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

"love one another deeply, from the heart..." — 1 Peter 1:22

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 **Ephesians 2:8-10** out loud and then answer and discuss the following questions together:

1. Pastor Scott kicked off a two-week series on God's gifts to us. He opened by asking a simple question concerning the best gift we have ever received.
 - a. **What would you say was the greatest Christmas gift you ever received?**
 - b. **Why was this gift so great?**
2. Pastor Scott unpacked the idea of two great gifts we have received from God out of Ephesians 2:8-10. The first was, "The gift of being saved by God."
 - a. **What exactly have we been saved from?**
 - b. **What kind of people were we according to Ephesians 2:1-5? How does this sweeten the reality of our salvation?**
3. Pastor Scott discussed the idea that this gift of salvation is sometimes seen as, "grace is God's part, faith is mine." According to Ephesians 2:8, though, we learn that faith and grace are a gift.
 - a. **What does it mean that both faith and grace are a gift from God?**
 - b. **What did Pastor Scott mean when he said, "Only God can get me to God"?**
4. Continuing on in the theme of salvation being a gift from God, Pastor Scott strongly taught that we do not upgrade from the gospel. He shared with us a powerful statement, "*We won't see the glory of being saved by God until we see how desperate we are for God.*"
 - a. **Why must we first see our need for God before we understand the glory of the cross?**
 - b. **In what ways can we live with a keen sense of desperation for God? What does that really mean?**
5. Finally, Pastor Scott shared the second gift, "The gift of being used by God." From this point he taught that we are God's workmanship, or masterpiece, we were not accidents, but purposely designed for good works.
 - a. **What does John Calvin mean when he says, "*It is faith alone that justifies, but faith that justifies can never be alone*"? How does this relate to James 2:17-18?**
 - b. **What does it mean that we were, "*created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*"?**

SHARE: MOBILIZE TOGETHER

1. Pray for a lost family member, friend, coworker, etc.
2. Pray for our church, that they would be marked by gratitude and thankfulness.
3. Pray that God would revive the joy of our salvation in our lives.