



WEEK OF December 10 – December 16 / 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 13:34-35**

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

“...Be devoted to one another...” —Romans 12:10

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 **1 Peter 4:10** out loud and then answer and discuss the following questions together:

1. Pastor Vance opened his sermon by discussing the difference between a storage box and a gift box. He explained that when it comes to church we are either one of the two.
 - a. **What was the point of Pastor Vance's illustration?**
 - b. **What does it mean to be a storage box or gift box?**
2. Out of 1 Peter 4:10, Pastor Vance gave us three defining statements as it relates to God's grace gifts to us. The first was, "*You have been given a grace gift.*"
 - a. **What exactly is a "grace gift"?**
 - b. **Pastor Vance gave us a spiritual equation concerning these gifts. "*saved = gifted*" what was the message of this equation?**
3. Secondly, Pastor Vance shared, "*You have been given a grace gift to serve others.*" Out of this statement, he taught the point: God has given me a gift and I'm to live on the lookout for ways to use my gift to serve others in the family.
 - a. **What gift do you believe God has given you to serve others? If you aren't sure, discuss it with your group and let them help!**
 - b. **Is there a need that you see in the church that you could potentially be a part of meeting?**
 - c. **What are two common mistakes when it comes to spiritual/grace gifts? Have you struggled with either one of these mistakes? (an obsession with knowing my gift & thinking my gift is about me).**
4. Finally, Pastor Vance taught, "*Serving others is the only right response to God's grace in your life.*" He further shared this powerful reality: Serving others is really more about my response to the grace of God in my life than it is my response to the need of someone else's life.
 - a. **What does it mean that we are to be "good stewards of the manifold grace of God"?**
 - b. **How is serving the only right response to God's grace in our life?**
 - c. **Are you currently serving/using your gift in a way that serves others? If not, how can you?**

SHARE: MOBILIZE TOGETHER

1. Pray for a lost family member, friend, coworker, etc.
2. Pray for our church, that God would inspire and move people to fill areas of need with their unique and God-given grace gift.
3. Pray that God would revive the joy of our salvation in our lives.