



WEEK OF September 24 – September 30 / 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**, Hebrews 3:12-13

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

"...love one another." —2 John 1:15

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.*

Ask someone in the group (or a few people) to read **1 Corinthians 7:7-8, 32-35** out loud and then answer and discuss the following together:

1. This past week, Pastor Vance, preached on singleness. It was a powerful message on a topic that isn't talked much about in Christian circles. Though this sermon was aimed toward singles, it's incredibly beneficial for parents, grandparents, or married couples to know and understand these things for the sake of their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - a. **What was your previous understanding of singleness prior to this sermon in a biblical context? Did you have one at all?**
 - b. **Was there ever a time, whether right now or maybe once in the past, that you struggled with singleness? How so?**
2. In his sermon, Pastor Vance gave three biblical realities concerning singles. The first being, "Singleness is desirable." From this point, he taught that, "*Paul is saying if you are single you are in the best possible position to pursue Jesus and His mission.*" From this point he shared three areas to enjoy undistracted devotion: intimacy, community, and mission.
 - a. **According to Paul, how is singleness, "*desirable.*"**
 - b. **In what ways can singles enjoy these three areas (intimacy, community, and mission) with undivided devotion?**
 - c. **How can people who aren't single enjoy these areas to their full potential?**
3. The second biblical reality he shared was, "Singleness is a gift." Out of this point he taught that all enjoy a season of singles, but some enjoy it for a lifetime.
 - a. **What does it mean to enjoy this gift for a lifetime?**
 - b. **How does one know if he or she has this special calling on their life?**
4. Finally, Pastor Vance taught, "Singleness is not easy." Out of this point he debunked the myth that marriage is the way to escape temptation, loneliness, or unfulfilled desire. The reality is, these are all ploys of the enemy that are constantly at work to destroy our faith.
 - a. **What does the text mean when it says to "burn with passion"?**
 - b. **How does this connect with Ephesians 6:11, 16?**

SHARE: MOBILIZE TOGETHER

1. Pray for the singles of Hope Church. That they would find deep satisfying joy and contentment in Christ, and that they would leverage this time for God's Mission.
2. Pray for a lost friend, family member, or coworker who is in your circle of influence. Pray for those that are close or far from taking that faith step into a relationship with Christ.
3. Pray for all the aftermath of these natural disasters in both our country and world.