



SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES:

SAFE GROUP: everyone can be real, open, and honest with their struggles and victories.

CONFIDENTIALITY: What is said in the group stays in the group.

LISTEN: really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond, or what you are going to say next.

PAUSE: Give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

NO "CROSS TALK": Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.

NO FIXING: We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement; speak truth, and point to Jesus.

NO RESCUING: When people are sharing something deeply personal resist the temptation to rescue them by giving advice. This will often cause them to stop sharing.

SHARING: Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.

BE SELF-AWARE: Be self-aware of how you are personally effecting the environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication.

USE "I" STATEMENTS: It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "us", "we", etc.

CONFLICT: When conflict or sin issues arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues.

Small Group Evening Schedule:

10min - Hangout time

10min - Welcome, Opening Prayer, Group Guidelines, Announcements

10min - Follow-up discussion about Sunday's Sermon

- What is one thing you learned? What challenged you?

40min - **Storying through scripture:**

Pastor Tim taught about making your life count and living for God's Kingdom in Philippians chapter 3. Keep this in mind as you study today's passages.

10min - Instructions for "storying" of scripture: "Storying" is taking a passage of scripture or a story in scripture and retelling it in your own words. The story is meant to be in the flavor of the individual and should be easy to tell. The rest of the group will pay attention and make sure that the individual does a good job covering the entirety of the story.

The group leader then "rebuilds" or recaps the story with the rest of the group making sure to fill in gaps and add perspective. Rebuild the story and have everyone participate using questions like "What happened first?", "Then what happened?" until you get through the story together.

**SCRIPTURES: Luke 6:46-49 - Wise & Foolish Builder
Matthew 13:44-46 - Hidden Treasure**

HEAD, HEART, & HAND QUESTIONS:

Who are the characters in these stories? List all of them.

What did each of them do in the story? What were their actions?

Which person in these stories do you relate to most? Why?

What action or idea in this story made the most impact on you?

READ 1 John 2:15-17.

What are John's warnings & encouragements for us in this passage?

What should you do or change in your life because of what you read?

What is **ONE** action step you will take **THIS WEEK** to move that directions? _____

10min - Share prayer requests & pray.

(one person write requests and email or text to the rest of the group)