

Sermon-Based Group
25 September 2022
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Vision!

Imagine a group of people in an authentic community, loving each other honestly, covering each other's sins with forgiveness, prayer, confession, and encouragement, serving and supporting each other genuinely. When we dream of a small group of people dwelling together in unity, we begin to see the supernatural work of God within our relationships. Thank you for facilitating life change by hosting or leading a sermon-based small group, our prayer as your pastors is that you would experience God's grace by building a life-giving culture.

1. **Connect.** This is a time to personally connect, introduce yourself and share a bit about who you are. Each week you are together, go a little deeper and more personal. This is a time to catch up from the last time you met and ask about their family, relationships, work, hobbies, and anything they spend time on. This helps our hearts connect so that they can be formed later through the Word and the Presence of God. Everyone wants to belong somewhere.
2. **Worship.** You can take some time and play a few worship songs on a speaker or TV that would facilitate focus on God. Take some time to thank God for who He is; before asking or seeking, just be grateful, and tell your soul that it's time to bless the Lord. (Psalm 103: 1) If you don't have any music, you can turn into worship, use one of the Psalms, and read prayerfully through that. You can pray with an attitude of thanking God for His nature. Psalm 145, 146, 40, 8, 65, 98, and 150.
3. **Summarize.** Take turns summarizing the message in your own words, and allow everyone to participate in translating the message. This is not a personal application yet, only taking turns summarizing the news and building it in its entirety. Make sure you, as a small group leader, are filling in any gaps; the main point, scripture, and the end of the message.
4. **Personal.** This section will allow you to go deeper and be sensitive to God's activity in people's lives. Ask questions and facilitate conversation about the message this past weekend.
 - What did you get out of the message, and why?
 - Go over the primary scriptures from the message.
 - How will this influence your soul (mind, will, heart, and emotions), your work, and your life?
 - What is God asking you to be or to do based on the message?

Summary for Groups:

We all live in a world of words, a collage of information, and layers of lyrics. It can be overwhelming to think of all the notifications coming your way throughout the day. It depreciates the value of words. In living like Jesus, words are important. They have a function to bring life, to build up, to encourage, to speak things that are not into existence, and to fill us up with God, who is spirit and love. Speaking is not the need in our word-saturated world, listening is. Our words should be birthed out of listening to God and delivered with authority. Practicing the art of listening sets us up to speak words that don't fall to the ground, but instead have influence, and fulfill what they were sent to do; building people's lives to look more like Jesus. Consider speaking words of life this week, like a prophet. But just as the biblical prophets experienced, it's going to require you to listen to God actively.

Scriptures for Review:

Matthew 12:34, Proverbs 10:19, Ecclesiastes 5:2, Colossians 4:6, Ephesians 4:29, James 1:19, James 3:4-6, Proverbs 18:20-21, 1 Cor. 14:3, 1 Cor.13:1

Discussion Questions:

1. How have you seen an increase in God's presence? How have you seen the severity and kindness of God? How is God preparing you?
 2. In your own words define a prophet.
 3. Why do you think Jesus' words had authority?
 4. How can you practice listening so your words can have more authority?
 5. Describe the importance of your words based on Scripture. What other scriptures can you find about the importance of words?
 6. What is your plan, based on the conversation today, to be more like Jesus?
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5. **Application.** Take this time to ask what everyone will do with what they heard from the message.
What will you do with what you heard?
What is God asking you to be, and/or do, with what you heard?
6. **Pray.** Take some time to pray with and for each other.

Communication.

Here is a bit about the church life we want you to know about.

- Baptisms on the 8th and 11th of September.
- Groups Fall Kickoff starts 12 September.