

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.

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.

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.

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 do based on the message?

Summary for Groups

No matter what we think we need; healing, understanding, hope, encouragement, or His promise to come true, we will find this in the presence of God. In our life, we search for many things, but only one thing will satisfy us. God made us to be in a relationship with Him that is intimately connected, no matter what we do or where we go. If this is the answer to our life, how do we become more aware of His Presence? As Jesus said in His parables, He speaks so that our eyes would be opened, our ears would truly hear, and our hearts would understand. This life is available. It's more accessible than you think, but few live and rest in the presence of God. It's not a mystery. It's a reality we must walk in by faith, not by sight.



Scriptures

Mark 2:19-20
Exodus 33:7-11
Psalm 63:1-4
Matthew 5:6
Colossians 2:9-10
Ephesians 3:18-21
2 Corinthians 6:16-18

church Life

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

- Fasting and Prayer continues until February 5
- GStudents Parent Vision Night February 5 at 5:30pm

Discussion Questions

How has your deepest desire posed as a longing to be in the presence of God?

2. How can you increase your hunger for God?
3. How are you killing sin so that you can become more aware of the presence of God?
4. What could you start visiting in order to see it become part of you?

Supplemental scriptures (dig deeper in study)

Matthew 6:33

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 11:28-30 resting in His presence

Romans 8:13 on killing sin

Colossians 3:5-11 on killing sin

5. Application

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.

6. Pray

Pray. Take some time to pray with and for each other.

