

**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 do based on the message?

## **Summary for Groups**

---

Take time to celebrate as a believer. We just finished a hard fast. Be grateful to God because it is the key to joy and so much more. Gratitude is the key to a mature relationship with God where you don't just thank Him for the blessings, that's only good manners, but you thank Him for the struggle that grows you and the hardships that He will use for His glory. This graduated gratitude reveals all the opportunities you would have otherwise missed. Opportunities like loving the ones closest to you, seeing needs around you, building a godly marriage, appreciating every moment of life, remembering how much you longed for the things you have today that you may be tempted to complain about, and filling the city with Jesus.



## Scriptures

Philippians 4:6-7  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18  
Psalm 50:23  
John 13:34

## Church Life

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

• **GStudents Parent Vision Night**  
February 5 at 5:30pm

• **Freedom Weekend** | Southern Pines  
Campus  
February 25 8:30am

## Discussion Questions

1. How can you celebrate God and His work in you right now?
2. What are you grateful for?
3. What have you been complaining about that you could instead thank God for?
4. How is God using the difficulties in your life to grow and prepare you?
5. What can you do to level up your appreciation for the ones closest to you?

### **Additional (dig deeper in study)**

"I've seen all the ugly parts and I'm staying."- Matt Chandler

"Success is when the people who know you the best love you the most. Failure is when the people who know you the least love you the most." John Maxwell

## 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.

