

Sermon-Based Group Guide

March 26, 2023

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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 do based on the message?

Summary for Groups

Our Truth | Our Tension | Our Trust

Jesus' baptism and temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 3:13-4:4) gives us an example of how to walk through our own seasons of wilderness. It's these moments where we can't help but cry out, "God, where are you?" The hope is we have been given the Truth of being sons and daughters but there's always a Tension where the enemy wants to bring lies about this Truth. Therefore, we have to Trust in what God has said and work out our faith. This is where water baptism is an encouragement. It's our reminder of our public declaration of our new identity and commitment to following Jesus from promise to wilderness and death to life. The Greek word for "baptize" is the word "baptizo," which literally means to "fully immerse," or to "make overwhelmed." The call of response for us is to fully surrender and relate with Christ in His death and resurrection. There will be wilderness and death in our lives but there's always a promise of life because on the 3rd day, Christ rose.



Scriptures

Matthew 3:13-4:4
2 Corinthians 5:21
Galatians 2:20
Lamentations 3:21-26

Church Life

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

- *Easter Services: 6th April 6:30 pm
Southern Pines, 9th April all services*
- *Group Leader Gathering 15th April
9:30 am Southern Pines*

Discussion Questions

1. *What stuck out to you from this week's message?*
2. *What is the tension you are experiencing in this season of life?*
3. *How can the truth of water baptism encourage you to keep trusting in God's purposes?*
4. *Have you decided to publicly declare your new identity and commitment to following Jesus from promise to wilderness and death to life?*
5. *If you haven't and are ready to, what's your next step?*

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.

