

SAC Small Groups Discussion Guide – May 17th, 2026

This guide comes with the expectation that even if someone has missed the Sunday service, they have watched the sermon before coming to their small group.

Fellowship Time

Make sure to have time where people can chat and catch up. This section could include a dinner together, having a potluck, preparing snacks, etc. The key to this section is make people feel welcomed and seen.

Read the Scripture & Overview Aloud Together

This section contains the text and a brief summary of the sermon that was preached on Sunday. It will have the main point explained as a way to help those remember the sermon. This is not an in-depth overview because the expectation is that everyone will take the time to listen to the sermon. Make sure to read this aloud for everyone to hear.

Text

Jeremiah 29:4-7

4 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Acts 2:42–47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Mark 2:3-5

³Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

John 15:12-13

¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

Overview of Sermon

We are currently in a series titled, Here for Good, where we are looking at the church vision and community commitments. This week, we looked at the community commitment of presence which is: “We are attentive to one other as we journey together from strangers to neighbours to family, We create space at the table where others can belong and be known”. Our first example that we looked at in the Scriptures of Christian community was when the church began to gather after Pentecost. As the Holy Spirit descended upon God’s people, the church was born and the family of God was united by the mutual indwelling of the Spirit. This new family committed to each other, did life around the table, practice sacrificial generosity, and devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching. The picture of journeying together describes our shared commitment to developing, enriching, and restoring relationships. Relationships are an intrinsic part of Christian life. We find this anchored in the Trinitarian relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who were present together in relationship with one another since before Creation.

Healthy relationship is the overflow of a life centered on Jesus, so our goal as a church is to be attentive, looking for opportunities to welcome others into this shared relationship where they too can experience and encounter the presence of the living Christ. In Mark 2, we discover an example of attentiveness where the paralytic man’s friends bring him to Jesus so he can be healed. This story gives us two reminders: to be purposeful and to be unhurried. To be purposeful is to be intentional for the benefit of another. This looks like seeking out others and making space for relationship to thrive. To be unhurried is to slow down enough to become attentive to those around us and be able to bear our hearts with one another. If we can be purposeful and unhurried in our lives, the commitment of presence becomes more and more attainable.

Discussion Questions

These questions are prompts to help the group have meaningful dialogue over the sermon this past weekend. Do not feel the need to ask all these questions. You are more than welcome to create your own questions or mix the questions together.

Connection to Other (Icebreaker/Light)

- What subject or topic would you say you have expertise in and why?

Connection to Head (Study/Knowledge Questions)

- What do these passages teach us about God? And about the church?

Connection to Heart (Deeper Engagement)

- Where in your life are you most hurried, and how does that hurry affect your relationships?
- Is your table (literal or figurative) actually open to others? What would it take to make it more so?

Reflect and Discuss the Practice and Prayer.

This is an opportunity for accountability and formation in your group. Accountability to ensure people are practicing the practices and formation because we believe that these practices will shape and form us into the people that God intended us to be. Take time to practice this together and reflect on each person's experience of these practices.

Practice: What is one relationship in my circle of influence where I can practice being purposeful and unhurried?

Prayer: Father, help us slow down and become attentive to others. Grant us the ability to extend hospitality and compassion to others. Help us to ask good questions and to listen well. Allow us the patience to welcome interruptions and to embrace awkward silence. Lead us to create space at the table just as You welcome us to Your Table. Amen.

Prayer Together.

Take some time to pray with each other. This is not a time for gossip or to be cynical, this is an opportunity to share with each other our burdens, to celebrate and praise God together, and to pray expectantly that God would move.