

6 WEEKS

WE BELIEVE



TABLE OF CONTENTS

© Copyright 2018. Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotes are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, New International Version. Copyright 1973, 1978, and 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations noted (NLT) are from the HOLY BIBLE, New Living Translation. Copyright 1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Wheaton, IL 60189. All rights reserved.



WE BELIEVE

WEEK 1

God Has Revealed Himself.....4

WEEK 2

Caution: God at Work.....7

WEEK 3

How Secure is My Salvation? 10

WEEK 4

Spiritual Growth: My Job or God's? 14

WEEK 5

Who is the Holy Spirit? 17

WEEK 6

God's Rewards for His Children 21

The Apostles' Creed25

Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group26

Group Agreement.....27

GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

When you unwrap a gift, do you like it to be easy or more challenging to open?

Big Idea:

God reveals Himself through general revelation and special revelation. But most of all, He has revealed Himself through His Word.

Key Scriptures:

Read through the key Scripture passages for this week (pg 5).

Discussion:

1. Read Psalm 19:1-2 and Romans 1:19-20. How would you explain what God has revealed through His creation?
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. This passage contains what is often called the “doctrine of inspiration.” Why do you think God used ordinary people inspired by Him to reveal Himself through His word?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14. This passage contains what is sometimes called the “doctrine of illumination.” How have you seen the Holy Spirit at work enabling His word to be discerned?

Psalm 19:1-2

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge."



KEY SCRIPTURES

Romans 1:19-20

"For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."

2 Timothy 3:16-17

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

1 Corinthians 2:14

"The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit."

Psalm 119:105

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

Hebrews 4:12

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Matthew 4:4

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

4. Somebody once asked Charles Spurgeon “How do you defend Scripture?” His response was, “The same way you defend a lion. You just let it loose.” How have you seen the power of Scripture at work?
5. Read Psalm 119:105, Hebrews 4:12 and Matthew 4:4. What are the metaphors for God’s word that you see in these passages? With which do you most resonate?
6. Share an example from your own life how God’s word has illumined your way, cut you to the heart or provided much needed sustenance in your life.
7. Most everybody here would cheer for the Bible. But consider: are you devoted to its use? Are you allowing it to shape you? Are you immersed in it? Is there, generally speaking, a hunger for it in you? If not, pray that you would develop a hunger and thirst for the word of God.

Wrapping It Up:

Pray around the 3 metaphors this week (lamp, sword, bread) as you open up the Bible. Ask God to guide you and to shape what you do, Allow Him to fill your mind with Scripture to the extent that it shapes the way you think and respond.

MEMORY VERSE

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17



CAUTION: GOD AT WORK

WEEK 2

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

What is the most rewarding work you've ever done?

Big Idea:

It is God's redeeming and regenerative work that brings people to salvation.

Key Scriptures:

Read through the key Scripture passages for this week (pg. 8).

Discussion:

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-9. This passage describes what scholars call the Doctrine of Original Sin, that is, since the first sin of Adam, the human race exists in a condition of fallenness and brokenness. Discuss what it means to be "dead in our sin"?
2. What does it mean to be made alive with Christ? How does this happen?
3. Read John 12:32-33. We see here how God draws people to himself, much like a magnet. How have you seen this at work in your own life or the lives of others?

Ephesians 2:1-9

"You were dead through the trespasses and sins, in which you once lived following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them, in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of our flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ -- by grace you have been saved -- and raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God; not the result of works so that no one may boast."

John 12:32-33 32

"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness and judgment."

Matthew 7:13-14

"For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."



KEY SCRIPTURES

John 16:8

"When He [the Holy Spirit] comes, He will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment."

Isaiah 6:5

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

2 Corinthians 7:10

"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."

Proverbs 14:12

"There is a way that seems right to man but in the end it leads to death."

John 14:6

"I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Ezekiel 36:26

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

4. Read John 16:8, Isaiah 6:5 and 2 Corinthians 7:10. God works through the conviction of the Holy Spirit. What has been your experience with this type of conviction? What happens when we ignore the conviction of God's Spirit?
5. Read Matthew 7:13-14, Proverbs 14:12, and John 14:6. How do you see God at work in providing a way back to Him? Why can't we find our own way?
6. Read Ezekiel 36:26. This passage depicts God's miraculous work of regeneration. How have you seen your own heart be regenerated by God's awesome power?

Wrapping It Up:

The day is coming when every human being you see and every human being you love will be eternally saved or hopelessly lost.

How will you join God in His redeeming work in this world?

MEMORY VERSE

*"For it is by grace you
have been saved through faith;
and this is not your own doing,
it is the gift of God;
not the result of works so that no one may boast."*

Ephesians 2:8-9

HOW SECURE IS MY SALVATION?

WEEK 3

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

In what way have you most struggled with the assurance of salvation; for you or for someone else?

Big Idea:

The assurance of salvation is possible for all believers.

Key Scriptures:

Read through the key Scripture passages for this week (pgs. 11 & 13).

Discussion:

1. Read Hebrews 6:4-6 and Hebrews 10: 26-29. Honestly discuss how these two passages impact your thinking regarding assurance of salvation.
2. Read John 10:27-29 and Romans 8:35-39. How then do these passages come into play in what you believe about the possibility of losing one's salvation?

Hebrews 6:4-6

"It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace."



Hebrews 10:26-29

"If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the Law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?"

John 10:27-29

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

1 John 2:19

"They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us."

(continued on page 13)

3. God's promise of assurance, while it's crucial for our spiritual lives, is not grounds for a presumptuous spirit on our part. Discuss how this plays out in our everyday lives.
4. Read 2 Timothy 2:11. Discuss the difference between disowning God and being faithless. How do these come into play when it comes to being assured of our salvation?
5. Read Mark 9:24. What happens to you when you struggle with doubts? Does it cause you to fear losing your salvation? Or rely more on God's faithfulness in those moments?
6. Read 1 John 2:19. How does this verse speak to the subject of our salvation?
7. Read 1 John 3:24. According to this passage, what role does the Holy Spirit have in our assurance when it comes to our salvation?

Wrapping It Up:

Remember that God's faithfulness is stronger than our fickleness; and that we're not just saved by grace, we live by grace.

MEMORY VERSE

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand."

John 10:27

Romans 8:35-39

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”



KEY SCRIPTURES

2 Timothy 2:11

“Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.”

Mark 9:24

“Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

1 John 3:24

“And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.”

SPIRITUAL GROWTH: MY JOB OR GODS?

WEEK 4

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

What does the division of labor look like in your home? Who is responsible for what?

Big Idea:

Our sanctification, or spiritual growth, is both God's job and ours.

Key Scriptures:

Read through the key Scripture passages for this week (pg. 15).

Discussion:

Our discussion will center on the Doctrine of Sanctification, that is, the process of being formed spiritually. God's plan is that his image in us, which is marred by the fall, should be restored in all of its beauty and glory, that human life should and will be as God intended it.

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, Romans 7:18 and Leviticus 11:44. Discuss the disparity in these two verses regarding our sanctification. How do you resolve this contrast?
2. Read Philippians 2:12-13. Discuss how it works for you to work out your salvation, but God to work in you to fulfill His good purpose.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it."

Romans 7:18

"For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out."

Leviticus 11:44

"I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy."

Philippians 2:12-13

"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."

Philippians 3:12-14

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Romans 12:2

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7

"It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality... For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life."

Hebrews 12:14

"Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."



KEY SCRIPTURES

3. Read Philippians 3:12-14 and Romans 12:2. In the message, the metaphor was given about a sailboat. You can control and maneuver the sails and rudder, but are completely dependent on the wind to propel the boat forward. In what ways are the winds of the Spirit blowing in your life these days?
4. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7 and Hebrews 12:14. What efforts are you making to pursue spiritual growth with full resolve?
5. Sanctification is normative for every believer, it's not optional equipment. What steps do you most need to take to cooperate with God's Spirit in your own sanctification?

Wrapping It Up:

Identify the spiritual practices that are especially important for your growth, devote yourself to them, and then allow each moment to be a training exercise for sanctification.

MEMORY VERSE

*"Therefore, my dear friends,
as you have always obeyed—not only in my
presence, but now much more in my absence—
continue to work out your salvation with fear
and trembling, for it is God who works in you to
will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."*

Philippians 2:12-13

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

WEEK 5

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Is it difficult or easy for you to accept help? Why or why not?

Big Idea:

The Holy Spirit is like a funnel through whom all the blessings of God come to us, and He is the agent of God's work in this world.

Key Scriptures:

Read through the key Scripture passages for this week (pgs. 18 & 19).

Discussion:

1. Read 1 John 2:1-2, John 14:6-7 and John 16:7. According to these passages, what two counselors or advocates has God given to us? What had to happen for us to receive the second one?
2. What is the difference between Jesus as our Advocate and the Holy Spirit as our Advocate and why does Jesus say it is better? (John 14:17)
3. Read John 16:7, 12-13, 1 John 2:20-22,26. What is one role of the Holy Spirit according to these passages? How does this help us?

1 John 2:1-2

"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."

John 14:16-17

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."

John 16:7

"But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I [Jesus] am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor (Advocate) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."

Ephesians 1:13

"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit."

John 16:12-13

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But



when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."

1 John 2:20-22

"But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth."

1 John 2:26

"I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him."

Ephesians 3:16-19

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."



KEY SCRIPTURES

Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Judges 14:6

"The Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him [Samson] so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat."

Ezekiel 37:4-6

"Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

Romans 8:26-27

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."

4. Read Ephesians 3:16-19. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit from these passages?
5. Read Acts 1:8, Judges 14:6. What evidences of the Holy Spirit are seen in these passages?
6. Read Ezekiel 37: 4-6. What encouragement can you receive from this passage regarding the Holy Spirit when you are at your lowest?
7. Read Ephesians 1:13. According this passage, how do we receive the Holy Spirit?
8. Read Romans 8:26-27. Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in our prayer life.

Wrapping It Up:

What are you trying to do apart from the Holy Spirit? What difficult sin are you seeking to overcome? What tough, challenging area are you seeking to grow in? What difficult person are you trying to love? Be reminded that the Holy Spirit gives you direction, power, and unconditional acceptance. Let Him be your Advocate and allow Him to work in and through your life.

MEMORY VERSE

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you." John 14:16-17

GOD'S REWARDS FOR HIS CHILDREN

WEEK 6

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Are you one who needs instant gratification? Or can you be patient for a greater reward?

Big Idea:

God rewards His faithful ones in the life to come.

Key Scriptures:

Read through the key Scripture passages for this week (pgs. 22 & 24).

Discussion:

1. Read Matthew 5:11-12, 6:1-6, and 10:11-14. Discuss the circumstances under which one receives an eternal reward based on these passages.
2. Read 1 Peter 5:2-4 and 1 Corinthians 9:24. What types of rewards are promised here for faithfulness?
3. Read 1 John 3:2 and Matthew 13:43. According to these Scriptures, not only can we receive rewards in eternity, but also something happens to us as a result of our faithfulness. What is that and what benefit it that to you?

Matthew 5:11-12

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you"

Matthew 6:1-6

"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Matthew 10:11-14

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward."

1 Peter 5:2-4

"God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away."

(continued on page 24)



KEY SCRIPTURES

4. Read Revelation 3:21. Here Jesus is promising the right to sit with Him upon His throne. What do you think that means?
5. Read Revelation 21:1-5. Do you spend much or little time thinking about life beyond this earth? What comes to mind as you read this passage?
6. Biblical teaching on rewards clearly indicates that what we do on this earth has eternal consequences. Acts of servanthood, obedience and faith that we thought went unobserved, unnoticed and unmarked here were, in fact, not unobserved at all. How does this encourage or inspire you?

Wrapping It Up:

C.S. Lewis says: ""To be loved by God, not merely pitied, but delighted in as an artist delights in his work or a father delights in his son seems impossible; a weight or burden of glory which our thoughts can hardly sustain, but so it is."

That's what the crown is about -- that you will stand before God and he will be delighted that you exist, and you will know yourself -- with innocent joy and gratefulness -- to be the object of the delight of God. Take a few moments to reflect upon being the object of God's delight.

MEMORY VERSE

*"Do you not know that
in a race all the runners run,
but only one gets the prize?
Run in such a way as to get the prize."*

1 Corinthians 9:24

1 Corinthians 9:24

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize."

1 John 3:2

"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

Matthew 13:43

"Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

1 John 3:3

"All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure."

Revelation 3:21

"To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne."

Revelation 21:1-5

"Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth,"[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'" He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"





THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*The Apostles' Creed was written for the earliest church as a profession of faith.
It is still a true and valued profession of our church today.*

Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group

1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
 - Ephesians 4:1-3
2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place?Review and sign a group agreement.
3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?

Group Agreement

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we: _____

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Refreshments/mealtimes _____
- Childcare _____
- When we will meet (day of week) _____
- Where we will meet (place) _____
- We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
- We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together.
- Our primary worship service time will be _____
- Date of this agreement _____
- Date we will review this agreement again _____
- Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study _____



SUNNYBROOK
community church

5601 Sunnybrook Drive
Sioux City, Iowa 51106
www.sunnybrookchurch.org