

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

For October 10, 2021 sermon:

Connect: "The Church has left the building"

Warm up:

1. Begin your time together by sharing one of these exercises (at least one group found that "Happy and Crappy") brought out too many negatives. So either go around the circle and share the best and worst of your week. (The "Happy" and "Crappy" for the past week.) OR go around the circle and each person share one thing about yourself you think no one else in your group knows. Interesting? Fun? Trivial?
2. Are you currently serving in a ministry or ministries at the church? Explain.

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes)

1. The well-known statement about service and giving in the local church is "that 20% of the people do 80% of the work AND contribute 80% of the church's offerings". Do you think this is true or not? Why, in your opinion, don't more people understand the importance and joy of serving and giving? Remember these important motivators:

-Jesus (God in human flesh) came and both served and gave.

Read and discuss Mark 10:42-45 and John 13:3-5, 12-17

-All believers have been given gifts and abilities to serve with.

Read and discuss Romans 12:4-8

-Working together to reach the lost and strengthen the church is the goal.

Read and discuss 1 Corinthians 3:5-9, Philippians 1:27 and Philippians 2:1-2

What about working together is easier...and what is harder?

2. We have a message and a mission! We have been given insight about God's plan to transform the world and our role in helping to accomplish this plan. While it is clear that true faith will always be accompanied by "good works", it is tempting to make Christianity a checklist of things to "Do" and "Not do". Our message- the Good News about Jesus (who he is and what he came to do for us) is the most important thing. It is the Gospel that changes lives.

We need to remind ourselves what is the Good News and why do we need to share it.

Read: Romans 1:1-5, Romans 1:16-17, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 and 2 Timothy 1:8-10

Apply it: (10 minutes)

Pray: Are you praying for the unsaved persons God has placed on their heart to reach? If you did this in a previous gathering...any updates?

Share: Have you found someone outside your group and church to show the love of Jesus to in a practical way? Do you have an idea or plan?

Serve: Talk about a project you could do together (physical? financial?) in the next few weeks to bless someone outside your group. How can your group have an impact?