



Sermon-Based Small Group Leader Notes

For the week of October 2, 2011

Opening Reminders

- The first 3 gatherings of your group are “on ramp” weeks (people should feel free to try different groups until they find the right fit).
- If you have not already done so, share email information this week.
- Have you filled the various roles within the group, e.g., service coordinator, prayer coordinator, fellowship coordinator, snack organizer?
- Keep your eyes open for the person/people in your group who could lead a group in the future. Leadership and group proliferation are goals of this ministry!

Topic:

SERMON SERIES: *What’s So Great About the Gospel?* (Week 3 of 3)

“God’s Great Invitation,” Philippians 3:20-4:1 (Pastor Harrington)

Goals for This Gathering

1. To create a setting where participants can grow in relationship with others and Christ.
2. To discuss this week’s study.
3. To share praises and prayer requests, followed by time spent in group prayer.

Prayer

- Take prayer requests and praises
- Pray for all Small Groups meeting at Northwest and in homes
- Pray for the spiritual growth of your group
- Pray for relational growth between members of the group and the congregation

Leader Guide

Reminder to Leader:

Encourage participants to take a few minutes each week to read the participant guide, jotting down a few responses to the questions.

Getting Started

- **Question 1** is designed to help people recall elements of the current sermon series. Participants might remember specific points, images, overall theme of the series, connections between a sermon and a song, etc.

- **Question 2a** answers: *Be all that you can be (Army), The Real Thing (Coca Cola), You deserve a break today (McDonald's), Let's Make Things Better (Philips), We'll leave the lights on for you (Motel 6), We bring good things to life (GE).*
- Answers will vary to **Question 2b**, but the basic underlying message is *that you haven't arrived, yet. There is more. Things can be improved upon.*
- The final question in this section directs the focus to this week's sermon.

Into-the-Bible

- This section provides participants with additional New Testament scripture that both confirms the truth found in Paul's letter to the Philippians and reinforces those truths in our minds with another example from the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. God's Word is consistent.
- **Question 5** drives participants to the fundamental realization that Jesus Christ's purpose for coming was to restore what was initiated at creation but had been corrupted by sin.
- In response to **Question 6** people might give specific examples, e.g. the "*health and wealth gospel*" or "*Love Rules*" (*God is tolerant, loving God, not a judge who'd allow anyone to go to Hell*) but at their core, none of these incomplete/false gospels contain the essential promise of Christ's renewing, restorative plan for all of creation.

Digging Deeper

- The questions in this section prompt life application.
- Allow your group to answer these more personal questions, as they feel comfortable.
- **Question 7a** can be quite personal, so allow participants to respond according to what they observe in others' lives. If you feel comfortable, a personal response to this question might encourage a deeper level of trust within the group.
- **Question 7b** directs our attention back to the cross. Christ's death on one tree undid Adam and Eve's devastating disobedience at another tree.
- Responses to **Question 8** will segue your group time naturally into prayer time.

Prayer

Try to have a volunteer prayer coordinator by this point. This person will keep notes and email prayer requests and praises to the group. Encourage him or her to bring a notebook for this purpose.