

Gathering for Purpose | LEADER GUIDE

This week's lesson digs into the idea that gathering together helps us find our purpose and the unity we can have through Christ. At the end of the lesson there is an **Interactive Element**.

Supplies Needed: Communion supplies for everyone in the group. (Grab some extras from the weekend service or just buy juice and crackers from the store.) If online, encourage your Small Group to find the supplies they need a few days before Small Group.

What you'll do: Read one of the passages from the Bible about communion, pray together, and take communion as a Small Group.

Weekly Check-In:

BLESS Updates reminds us that we need to be actively sharing our faith with those who don't yet know and follow Jesus.

- Have people share how they've been praying for others in their lives and what God has been prompting them to do to BLESS others.
- Have everyone identify one person they could begin praying for who is far from God.

Scripture and Discussion Questions:

The flow of this week lesson is:

- The Hebrews passage reminds us that we were meant to be together to encourage one another.
 - Dig deeper into the benefit of how encouraging one another makes a big difference in our lives.
 - We each know people who need to be encouraged.
 - Challenge your group to list 2-3 people they need to encourage. And talk about HOW they will do that. This discussion could spark some interesting ideas! (It's okay if one of these people is the same as from the BLESS Update question.)
- The Corinthians passage teaches us that we each have a role in the body of Christ.
 - As the leader, try to tell a funny story of when you were prohibited to perform a simple task because of an injury. The idea is to bring about how when we are not a FULL body, we cannot function normally.
 - Question 5 targets our natural desires to only be around those who are like us. Be honest with your group if that's something happening in your group. A conversation around this could point out ways to invite others who are different to be in the group.
 - The world is full of division. Followers of Jesus should strive to be united in what the Bible says.

Next Steps:

Have your group make intentional plans to encourage those 2-3 people that were talked about in question 3.

As the leader, follow up with your group members later in the week to see how it's going. And... intentionally encourage each of your Small Group members this week!!



242 small groups

Week of October 3 | Gathering together can lead you to what God's created you to do.

Ice Breaker Question:

What is 1 thing you wish those in your family or close community understood about you?

Weekly Check In

Share with the group a BLESS update: Who is someone who doesn't follow Jesus that you have been praying for?

This Week's Big Idea: Chasing a quick fix doesn't find a purpose that fulfills.

What do you remember most, or what stuck with you from the weekend's teaching?

Scripture and Discussion Questions:

Hebrews 10|23-25

1. What purpose does meeting with one another have according to this passage?
2. Who has been an encouragement to you this past year? How did it impact you?
3. Who are 2-3 people who need to be encouraged by you? How will you do that?

1 Corinthians 12|12-27

4. Have you ever had an injury that prohibited your ability to perform simple tasks? Share with the group. Bonus points for funny stories.
5. What are some reasons we might feel we don't need other parts of the body of Christ that are different from us?
6. How can we encourage people to be in unity with one another?

Small Group Interactive: 10-15 minutes

We celebrate communion to remind us how Jesus alone paid the price to restore us to God and to bring restoration to our world.

Spend time together as a group taking communion:

- Read one of the passages below
- Pray together
- Take communion as a group
 - Matthew 26|26-30: Christ leads the first Communion
 - John 6|53-56: Christ speaks of his flesh and blood giving real life
 - 1 Corinthians 11|23-26: Paul comments on the ideal nature of Communion

Next Steps:



GO+BE

This week, make time to encourage those 2-3 individuals who came to mind earlier in the lesson. Pray for them and then reach out to them:

- Send a text message
- Write a note
- Call them on the phone

Find out how they've been doing, encourage them, share with them how God's been moving in your life, and invite them to check out Small Group or to come sit by you at church.