

## Small Group Guide

### THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE REDEMPTION OF OUR LIVES

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*The Church at Brook Hills,*

*Dr. David Platt*

*January 3, 2010*

*2 Timothy 3:14-17*

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

**Note:** This Small Group Guide does not follow David's sermon from January 3, 2010. This guide is designed to help you facilitate a discussion with your group about the importance of God's word as we begin reading the Bible and understanding God's story this year as a family of faith.

### ***Connect . . .***

*Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.*

#### **Option 1**

A common economics principle states that we participate in activities that give us the greatest pleasure or advantage. Encourage learners to describe what their lives this past year reflected that is important to them. Explain that today we will look at why being passionate about the Word of God in is important for our lives.

#### **Option 2**

Explain that most people who have been in church for a long time, particularly as children, have been taught separate stories from the Bible as if they are not connected. Encourage learners to describe when they first realized that the Bible is God's redemptive story and not merely a series of historical descriptions that aren't related. Ask: **How did your view of the Bible change based on this discovery? Did the value of the Word change in your life when that happened? If so, how?** Allow a couple of minutes for learners to discuss their answers. Then, explain that today we will look at the Bible as God's whole story and why it is important to us.

### ***Review the Message . . .***

#### **Overview of the Bible**

- **The Bible is a story about re-creation.**
- **The Bible is a story about redemption.**

#### **Discussion . . .**

- Enlist a learner to read Genesis 1:1, 27, and 31. How was the relationship between God and His creation, including humankind, intended to be?
- Read Genesis 2:15-17 and 3:6-24. What was affected by Adam and Eve's disobedience toward God?
- Explain that because of this sin, all of humanity would be born with a sinful nature (Romans 5:12, 18a, 19a).

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- Enlist two learners to read Isaiah 46:9-13 and Ephesians 1:9-12. These two texts tell us that God has a purpose for Creation. Despite the entrance of sin into the world, what is that purpose?
- Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Isaiah 9:6-7. What are some examples of how God moved toward His purpose, particularly in the Old Testament? Remind learners of Noah and the Ark, the Exodus from Egypt, Joshua and the defeat of Jericho, and even Jonah and the big fish.
- Enlist a learner to read Galatians 4:4-5. How was Jesus the fulfillment of God's great purpose?
- Read Romans 5:14-16. How did Jesus contrast with Adam? How did Jesus give new life to His followers through His sacrifice?

#### Application . . .

- Why is reading the Bible as a whole story important to our understanding of it?
- Why is it easy for us to compartmentalize the Bible? How might treating the Bible as separate stories and sections be dangerous?
- How can we understand God and His purpose better by considering the whole story of Scripture?
- Where do we fit into God's story of re-creation and redemption?

#### God's Word is Revelation

- **God uses His Word to reveal His plan and character.**
- **God uses His Word to transform us into His image.**

#### Discussion . . .

- Enlist a learner to read 2 Timothy 3:14-17.
- Who is the source of Scripture? How does Scripture reflect its source?
- How are the Word of God and salvation connected?
- If the way of salvation is made known through God's Word, what does that say about God's intent and desire to make Himself known to the world?
- How is God's character revealed through the revelation of His plan for salvation? How do God's saving acts throughout history witness to His character?
- What does Paul state that Scripture can do in our lives? How can God's Word change the lives of His people?

#### Application . . .

- By what sources has our understanding of God been most greatly formed? Other than His Word, how do we often form our understanding of His character?
- Why should our knowledge of God be formed primarily and most importantly from His Word?
- How do our lives currently reflect the importance of the Word of God to us?

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- How do we in our North American culture often neglect the great availability of God's Word to us?
- Describe how we can intentionally use God's Word "for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" in our lives? How can we use it for those purposes individually, as a family, and corporately (as a Body and/or a small group)?
- In becoming more like Christ, how are we more equipped to fulfill His mission?

#### **God's Word is Imperative to Our Spiritual Growth**

- **We are to believe the truth of God's Word.**
- **We are to live according to the truth of God's Word.**

#### **Discussion . . .**

- Why is it important for Christ followers to believe the truths of God's Word?
- What impact would His Word have if His followers never lived out its instruction?

#### **Application . . .**

- How does knowing and truly believing God's truths help us to live them out?
- What is the difference between knowing God's Word and believing God's Word?
- How do we show that we believe God's Word?
- How can we be intentional about letting God's Word change our hearts and our actions (think inline with Matthew 5:3)?
- How does God's Word impact the world of those who have never read it?