

## Small Group Guide THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

August 7, 2011

1 Timothy 1:1-2

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects 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 an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

### Relate . . .

Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:

**Welcome**—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.

**Review**—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time. Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to revisit the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.

**Prayer**—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.

### Reflect . . .

Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications in our lives:

#### Sermon Outline

#### THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

1 Timothy 1:1-2

#### OUR WORSHIP...

An earthly \_\_\_\_\_ expression \_\_\_\_\_ of a heavenly assembly.

- Essential components of our worship...
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Adoration \_\_\_\_\_
  - Confession
    - Confessing our sin in prayer.
    - Confessing our salvation in \_\_\_\_\_ baptism \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Instruction
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Communion \_\_\_\_\_
    - We remember the body and blood of Jesus.
    - We reflect on our sin and on His promises (we feast on His forgiveness of us and His faithfulness to us!).
    - We renew our commitment to Christ and each other.
    - We rejoice because He has set us free...and He is coming back.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Intercession \_\_\_\_\_
  - Commission
- Central characteristics of our worship...
  - Divine \_\_\_\_\_ revelation \_\_\_\_\_...

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- Worship involves a rhythm of revelation and response.
- Community participation ...
  - We are a community of worshippers, not an audience of spectators.
- Reverent affection ...
  - Worship is the awe-filled response of our hearts to the presence of God.
- Dedicated attention ...
  - Come prepared.
  - Come eager.
  - Be here early.
  - Stay to the end.

#### OUR CHURCH...

An earthly outpost of a heavenly kingdom.

- The setup...
  - A divine word from a chosen apostle.
  - A struggling church with a young pastor.
- We want our worship to be God-centered.
  - He is our Savior.
  - He is our Hope.
  - He is our Father.
  - He is our Lord.
- We want our community to be gospel-formed.
  - The gospel defines what we believe.
  - The gospel affects how we pray.
  - The gospel determines how we lead.
  - The gospel changes how we relate to one another.
  - The gospel revolutionizes how we view possessions.
  - The gospel drives how we do mission.

#### OUR PRAYER...

O God, by Your grace and for Your glory,  
may Your will be done in The Church at Brook Hills as it is in heaven.

### Message Summary

Throughout the Old Testament, God called a people to Himself that they may worship Him and glorify Him throughout the earth. His holy character and His Word caused His people to respond with reverent awe and obedience. Worship is an expression of worship to a God who is not only worthy of worship from all peoples of the earth but who already is the object of worship by all of heaven. The Israelites' worship of God was characterized by the centralization of the Word of God, their reverent participation and devotion, and their undivided attention to the one true God of the universe. These same characteristics carried into the New Testament Church as the new covenant made them the earthly picture of God's kingdom. The author of Hebrews noted in Hebrews 12:18-24 that the Church worships God along with the heavenly gathering of worship that never ceases to praise God. There are patterns of worship that were consistently evident in the New Testament church's worship of God: adoration, confession, instruction from the Word of God, communion, intercession, and commission.

Paul wrote 1 Timothy to the young pastor, Timothy, as he shepherded the church in Ephesus through struggles. Paul named Christ as our Savior, Hope, Father, and Lord. These identities demand that God be centered in worship. Because our worship is God-centered, our community must be gospel-formed so that we are engaging in His mission and obeying His commands together as we make disciples of all nations.

### Discuss

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Use the following questions to review the Head (What does God want me to know?), Heart (What does God want me to value?), and Hands (What does God want me to do?) aspects of the message.

- If worship in the Old and New Testaments was an expression or reflection of heavenly worship and a heavenly kingdom, what role did worship play in the community of believers?
- Why is community worship of God a necessity for the spiritual growth of a Christian and a major part of the completion of the Great Commission?
- How do we often downplay the importance of worship in our lives? How do we often teach our children, even inadvertently, that corporate worship is not a big deal for a believer?
- How can we know if God is at the center of our worship? How can we ensure that He becomes/stays at the center of our worship?
- In our everyday lives, who or what receives our worship the most?
- How does confession prepare us to receive teaching from God's Word?
- Why are we so afraid of admitting sin before God and especially before others?
- How can we help create an environment in our small group that is conducive to confession?
- What is our motivation for attending corporate worship with fellow believers? How does that attitude affect our participation?
- What kind of preparations can we do to help our hearts and minds be prepared to participate in worship and receive instruction from God's Word?
- What kind of practical preparations can we do to aid in smooth logistics, travel, and attention spans for corporate worship? How can we help our family be prepared?
- If God is at the center of our worship, why must His Word be the foundation and formation of our community?
- How does unification around God and His gospel affect our impact on His command to make disciples?

## **Respond . . .**

*Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of the message. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:*

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from the message?
- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?
- According to the truths from the message, what does God want you to value?
- How do your values need to change to align with His values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this message?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength in the application of these truths and for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel.

## **Weekly Prayer Focus ... (from the worship guide)**

- **Lives and Church:** *Pray that God would unite our faith family around the gospel and lead us personally into disciple-making relationships.*
- **Local:** *This week we are praying for our Next Generation Disciple-Making Team at Brook Hills. We are also praying for Green Valley Baptist, Jeff James, Pastor.*
- **Global:** *This week we are praying for our partner, Jeffries, working in Sudan. We are also praying for Brook Hills teams in Seattle, East Asia, and Southeast Asia.*

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