

BiG IDEA SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

9.19/20.09 // TIME CRUNCH – TIME TO CONNECT

BiG IDEA: Everyone needs a community of faith, hope and love. So get connected in a group.

// Ice Breaker _____

Option 1: Who in your family do you feel most connected with? Why?

Option 2: Outside of your family, who do you feel most connected with? Why?

// Questions for Discussion _____

How much of a time crunch are you in right now? More or less busy than normal? More or less busy than you should be? Too busy for what really matters? Do you feel like you're run by the tyranny of the urgent?

Do you believe you've made good spiritual progress from one year ago? How do you think you "look more like Jesus" from a year ago?

Some people feel like they have no time for friends. Brett referred to Tom Hanks in the movie *Castaway* having a volleyball for a substitute friend - "Wilson!!" When have you settled for fake friends or fake community?

How can we be real friends instead of "Wilson" at church? What are some differences between just "going" to church, and "being" the church?

Acts 2:44-47

All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Why do you think people are hesitant to be in a group, like you are right now? What are some of the reasons they give, whether legitimate or not?

What are some of the benefits of being in a group?

Love one another (John 15:12)

Pray for one another (James 5:16)

Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)

Have equal concern for each other (1 Corinthians 12:25)

Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)

Teach and admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)

Encourage and build each other up (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)

Share with those in need and practice hospitality (Romans 12:13)

Motivate one another to acts of love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. (Romans 12:15)

What would motivate more people to get involved in groups?

How can this group become more like "family"?

// Application_____

Commit to memory Proverbs 27:17

"As iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another."

Give one to two hours per week in getting connected—make your group a priority.

- **Invite someone to be your apprentice.** *If you're a group leader, look for someone who has potential to be a leader, then ask them!*
- **Develop your apprentice.** *Show them what you do....with the goal that down the road, the group will grow and multiply...and then*
- **Release your apprentice to start a new group.** *...with some members from the existing group. Or the leader is released to start a new group with some existing members, leaving the apprentice behind to carry on.*

// Prayer_____

Pray that God will strengthen our community

Pray that you will lead or join a small group and invite others to do the same