

# Small Group Guide

Sermon-based discussion and training







### INTRODUCTION

This five-week small group discussion and training guide is an accompanying resource to the *Pray Together*, *Go Together 30-day Prayer Guide* for unreached people and least-reached places across North Carolina. This small group discussion and training guide corresponds to the sermon guide and prayer guide within this Pray Together, Go Together resource series. When used alongside the sermon guide and the 30 day prayer guide, this becomes a critical resource for helping your members grow through time in God's Word together. Expect your small groups to devote around 1-1/2 hours each time they meet for one of these sessions.

Consider using all of the resources connected to this *Pray Together*, *Go Together* emphasis available at prayandgoNC.org.

- 1. Pray and Go 30-Day Prayer Guide
- 2. Five-Week Pray and Go Sermon Guide
- 3. Five-Week Pray and Go Small Group Guide for Disussion and Training Guide
- 4. One-Day Pray and Go Push for Prayer Walking and Gospel Sharing



THANKSGIVING & PRAISE LOVE & ACCOUNTABILITY HEAR STRUGGLES & PRAY



READ & RETELL
ASK & UNDERSTAND
APPLY TO OUR LIVES



PRACTICE TOGETHER
PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

The rhythm of your time together each week in these small group sessions will be threefold – to look back, look up, and look forward.

- To look back, you will focus on thanksgiving and praise to God for His grace in your lives, love and accountability for one another, and sharing your struggles and praying for one another.
- To look up, you will read the passage of Scripture and retell it together, ask critical questions to better understand what it means, and discern together how to apply it to your lives.
- To look forward, you will learn a simple tool related to the passage, practice together, and then pray for one another as you seek to be obedient to the Scriptures in the coming week.



# What's Your Story?

**JOHN 1:19-34** 



Gather everyone in your group together with open Bibles and a pen and paper. Allow these questions to guide the first part of your time together. Then, pray for one another and for your time together as you turn to God's Word.

- How have you experienced God's grace and love toward you this week?
- How can we praise God for the way He has been working in our lives?
- What has God been teaching you as you have read and meditated on His Word this week?
- How have you struggled this week? How can we pray for one another?

Have someone read the text from this week and have someone else retell it from memory (John 1:19-34). Then use some of these questions to discuss the passage and seek to apply it to your lives.



- Who does John the Baptist say Jesus is? What does that mean for us as His followers?
- What does that mean for those who do not yet belong to Christ?
- What was John the Baptist's role then (see Isaiah 40:3-5)?
- How is our role now similar or different?
- How does John the Baptist communicate the gospel in His witness of Jesus?
- How could we ask others to tell us their stories when we meet them?
- How can we use our own stories to shed light on Jesus and the gospel?
- Who needs to hear your own story of what Jesus has done for you?

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- Video
- Article



Now take a moment to learn a simple and practical tool, called "6 Words," that will help us to more effectively tell others what Jesus has done in your lives. Watch the video (linked above) to learn how to use this tool and take 2-5 minutes to allow everyone to write their story in their own words. Then take around 5-8 minutes to have everyone mingle with one another to share with no less than five different people (during practice, they should be able to share in less than 30 seconds each time they share). Once everyone has had an opportunity to practice together, take a moment and pray for one another as you seek to use your own stories to be a witness for Jesus in the coming days.

### Eat and Live

**JOHN 6:30-59** 



Gather everyone in your group together with open Bibles and a pen and paper. Allow these questions to guide the first part of your time together. Then, pray for one another and for your time together as you turn to God's Word.

- How has God lavished His loving kindness on you this week?
- How can you praise God for the way He has been working in your lives?
- Who were you able to share your story of what Jesus has done for you with over the last week? How did it go? What did you learn?
- What difficulty or discouragement have you had to face this week? How can you pray for one another?

Have someone read the text from this week and have someone else retell it from memory (John 6:22-59). Then use some of these questions to discuss the passage and seek to apply it to your lives.



- What can we learn about who Jesus is based on how He describes Himself according to this passage?
- What are we seeking to satisfy our souls other than Jesus?
- What could you do to stop seeking those things and begin to seek Christ more completely?
- How does this passage give us hope and security in Christ if we belong to Him?
- How could we best serve this meal to others and urge them to partake in the only one who can satisfy their souls?
- Who do we need to go and tell about this meal, Jesus, the bread of life who saves us through His atoning sacrifice?





- Video
- Article

Now take a moment to learn a simple and practical tool, called "3 Circles", that will help us to more effectively serve up the gospel of Jesus to others. Watch the video (linked above) to learn how to use this tool. Have everyone team up and then take around 10-15 minutes to practice sharing the gospel using this tool with one another. Once everyone has had an opportunity to practice together, take a moment and pray for one another as you seek to serve up the gospel of Jesus using the 3 Circles in the coming days.

# Jesus is the Resurrection E the Life

**JOHN 11:1-44** 

Gather everyone in your group together with open Bibles and a pen and paper. Allow these questions to guide the first part of your time together. Then, pray for one another and for your time together as you turn to God's Word.



- How have you felt the love of God toward you this week?
- How can we praise God for the way He has been working in our lives?
- Were you able to serve up the gospel of Jesus using the "3 Circles" tool this week?
- Who did you share with? How did it go? What did you learn?
- What has been hard about your life this week? How can we pray for one another?

Have someone read the text and have someone else retell it from memory (John 11:1-44). Then use some of these questions to discuss the passage and seek to apply it to your lives.



- How can we see the sovereign love of Jesus in this passage?
- Consider Martha's complaint against Jesus (John 11:17-27). When the Lord doesn't do what you think He should when you think He should, do you lose confidence in Him?
- Notice how Jesus grieves with Mary (John 11:28-37). What does it mean to you that this passage teaches that Jesus weeps with us in our grief?
- How are our lives different in light of the resurrection power of Jesus?
- In our suffering, Jesus assures us of His love and sovereign purposes, speaks the truth that our clouded minds need to hear, and grieves with us over our brokenness. We need the tears of Jesus, not only the truth of Jesus. How could we follow the example of Jesus with others who do not yet know Christ?

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



- Video
- Article

Now take a moment to learn a simple and practical tool for how to naturally transition to the gospel in conversations with unbelievers. A video and article are linked above. Watch this video and have a short conversation together to learn how to listen for brokenness and share hope. Thinking back over the last week, how did you hear people talking about aspects of brokenness in their lives? How could you have ministered the hope of the gospel to them in that moment? Once you have discussed this as a group, take a moment and pray for one another as you seek to listen for brokenness and share hope in the coming days.



### Abide

### **JOHN 15:1-17**



Gather everyone in your group together with open Bibles and a pen and paper. Allow these questions to guide the first part of your time together. Then, pray for one another and for your time together as you turn to God's Word.

- How has God's love for you cultivated your affections for Him this week?
- How can we praise God for the way He has been working in our lives?
- Were you able to listen for brokenness and minister the hope of the gospel in conversations over the last week? How did it go? What did you learn?
- What have you been struggling with this week? How can we pray for one another?

Have someone read the text from this week and have someone else retell it from memory (John 15:1-17). Then use some of these questions to discuss the passage and seek to apply it to your lives.



- What does this passage teach us about who God is and who we are (Vine, Vinedresser, and the branches)?
- According to this passage, how do we abide in Christ (His love, joy, body, grace, and power)?
- What are the fruits of abiding in Christ? How could we become more fruitful disciples?
- What needs to change in our lives this week to more fully abide in Christ and bear fruit that abides and brings Him glory?

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCE**



Handout

Now take a moment to learn a simple and practical tool for how to care through prayer for someone in the moment when they share aspects of brokenness in their lives by using the handout linked above. Read through the handout together, then find a partner and practice praying for one another in the moment. Then take around 5-8 minutes to have everyone mingle with one another to care through prayer with 2-3 different people. Once everyone has had an opportunity to practice together, take a moment and pray for one another as you seek to use your own stories to be a witness for Jesus in the coming days.

## The Best News in the World

### **JOHN 20:1-31**

Gather everyone in your group together with open Bibles and a pen and paper. Allow these questions to guide the first part of your time together. Then, pray for one another and for your time together as you turn to God's Word.



- How have you experienced the grace of God in your life this week?
- How can we praise God for the way He has been working in our lives?
- How were you able to abide in Christ over the last week? Were you able to care for others through prayer? How did it go? What did you learn?
- What are you facing this week that has been hard for you? How can we pray for one another?

Have someone read the text from this week and have someone else retell it from memory (John 20:1-31). Then use some of these questions to discuss the passage and seek to apply it to your lives.



- How does this passage help us understand the resurrection of Christ as the hope for the world? What does that mean for us?
- Who do you know that needs to hear this message of hope?
- How have you experienced the power of the resurrection of Christ in your own life?
- Jesus demonstrates grace for a broken Mary Magdalene, peace for fearful disciples, and truth for a skeptical Thomas. Which of these do you identify with the most and why?
- What if we are fearful as His disciples? How might we gain the peace of Christ?
- How could we follow the example of Jesus with these kinds of people in our own relationships? How can we show grace for the broken? How can we speak truth to the skeptic?

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCE**

Video



Now take a moment to learn a simple and practical tool for mapping who in your lives needs to hear the hope of the gospel message by watching the video linked above. Watch the video and draw out a map of the people near you who are far from God. Think about where you live, work, shop, play or even a part of your family. Have everyone write out their own sphere of influence maps with the names of people near to them but far from God. Then find a friend and pray together over your sphere of influence maps. Once everyone has had ample time to pray for one another, then close the time in prayer.

### **MORE RESOURCES**

### A READING PLAN A MEMORY PLAN

### Week One

Monday	John 1
Tuesday	John 2
Wednesday	John 3
Thursday	John 4
Friday	John 5

### Week Two

Monday	John 6:1-21
Tuesday	John 6:22-71
Wednesday	John 7
Thursday	John 8
Friday	John 9

### **Week Three**

Monday	John 10:1-21
Tuesday	John 10:22-42
Wednesday	John 11
Thursday	John 12:1-36
Friday	John 12:37-50

#### **Week Four**

Monday	John	13
Tuesday	John	14
Wednesday	John	15
Thursday	John	16
Friday	John	17

### Week Five

Monday	John 18
Tuesday	John 19
Wednesday	John 20
Thursday	John 21:1-14
Friday	John 21:15-25

Week One	John 3:16-18
Week Two	John 8:12
Week Three	John 11:25-26
Week Four	John 15:4-5
Week Five	John 20:21





