

# Small Groups

## EXPERIENCE

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FALL '25



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# **Wk 1 // SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE**

*Sept 7, 2025*

*Small Group Study: Healthy Habits Part 1 | Prayer & Bible*

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## **ICE BREAKER: Would You Rather**

- **Would you rather live on a deserted island or live in a studio apartment with 5 people?**
  - **If one were not more dangerous than the other, would you rather explore the depths of the ocean or the expanses of outer space?**
- 

## **INTRODUCTION**

- **Have you ever studied a foreign language? Which language and how fluent are you in it?**
- **Which is more difficult for you, reading and understanding the Bible or praying to and hearing from God?**

**For many of us, reading the Bible or praying can feel a bit like learning a foreign language. At first, it may seem confusing, slow, or even intimidating. The language of Scripture, rich in ancient contexts, unfamiliar names, and profound truths, requires time to become familiar. And prayer, especially when we're unsure how to begin or whether we're "doing it right," can feel equally foreign. But like any new language, the more we practice, the more fluent we become. Over time, the Bible becomes less of a textbook and more of a conversation with God. Prayer becomes less about finding perfect words and more about drawing close to the One who listens. These are not quick skills to master, but lifelong habits that grow deeper as we return to them day after day.**



## UNDERSTANDING

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ DEUTERONOMY 31:9–13.**

- In these verses, what command did Moses give concerning the reading of the law? Why do you think God wanted all the people, including children and foreigners, to hear it?
- What was the purpose of regularly gathering to hear God's Word? What does this teach us about how Scripture shapes community?

God commanded the people of Israel to gather publicly every seven years to hear the law read aloud, not just the priests or elders, but everyone in the community. The reason? So they would learn to fear the Lord, follow His commands, and pass that knowledge on to their children. Even in the Old Testament, God's people were formed and guided by His Word. If gathering to hear the law once every seven years was important, how much more should we engage regularly now that we have full access to Scripture and the living example of Jesus?

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 4:1–4.**

- How did Jesus respond when He was tempted by the devil?
- What does this show us about His relationship with Scripture?

Jesus' response to temptation wasn't based on emotion or willpower. It was rooted in Scripture. Quoting from Deuteronomy, He reminded the devil (and us) that we live by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Knowing the Word helps us discern truth from lies and equips us to stand firm in moments of doubt or attack. If Jesus, the Son of God, leaned on Scripture in a time of spiritual battle, how much more do we need to know and use God's Word?

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 5:15–16.**

- Why do you think Jesus often withdrew to pray, even when He was busy and surrounded by needs?
- What can we learn from Jesus' example about making space for prayer in our own lives?

Luke notes that as Jesus' popularity grew and crowds pressed in around Him, He often withdrew to pray. He made prayer a regular rhythm—not just when He had time, but as a way of staying connected to the Father. Prayer wasn't just about asking for things; it was about alignment, strength, and communion. If Jesus needed that space to stay grounded in His mission, then we do too.

Prayer is both a habit and a conversation. It's how we bring our hearts before God, listen for His voice, and stay in step with His Spirit. Scripture helps us know God; prayer helps us walk with Him.

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## GROUP ACTIVITY

Choose the activity/activities that best fit your small group's dynamic and knowledge level.

**BEGINNER:** Discuss the parts of the Bible and how to look up verses.

- What are the two main divisions of the Bible?
- Why are these 2 sections divided?
- What are books and how many of them are in the Bible?
- What are the big numbers versus the little numbers?

**INTERMEDIATE:** Discuss your favorite Bible verse(s)

- Why is this your favorite passage?
- What does it reveal about God or your relationship with God?
- What encouragement or truth does it offer to other believers?

**EXPERT:** Read [\*\*DEUTERONOMY 31:9–13\*\*](#) again.

- Who was the original audience of this command, and what was their situation at the time? (Hint: Israel was about to enter the Promised Land without Moses.)
- What role did repetition and public reading play in forming the identity and memory of God's people?
- How does understanding the cultural and historical context (a nomadic people becoming a settled nation) enhance the way we read and apply this passage today?

- In what ways does regularly returning to God's Word shape a community's spiritual health, just as it did for Israel?

## **APPLICATION**

- Is there an area of your life where you've been spiritually coasting and neglecting prayer or Scripture? What is one step you can take this week to grow closer to God?
- Think about a time when prayer sustained you through difficulty or helped clarify your direction. How can you create more space for that kind of communion with God in your daily life?
- Has someone ever helped you better understand the Bible or prayed with you when you were struggling? Who might need that kind of encouragement from you this week?

## **PRAYER**

Thank God for giving us His living and active Word and for inviting us into a daily relationship through prayer. Praise Him for how Jesus modeled both Scripture and prayer as essential to life with God. Ask the Holy Spirit to stir fresh hunger for the Word and deeper dependence in prayer in each person in your group. Pray that as a church community, we would become people who not only hear God's voice but obey it, and who help one another walk faithfully in the Spirit.

## **Wk 2 // SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE**

*Sept 14, 2025*

*Small Group Study: Healthy Habits Part 2 | Church*

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### **ICE BREAKER: What if?**

- If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?
  - If you could only live in one location the rest of your life, where would that be?
- 

### **INTRODUCTION**

- What kinds of church events have you attended?
- If you have attended church for a while, how have church events changed over the years or from church to church?
- What thoughts or memories do you have when you hear the term Church Community?

Whether your experiences in church have been deeply meaningful, complicated, or somewhere in between, one thing remains true: God designed us to live out our faith in community, not in isolation. The Church, though made up of imperfect people (ourselves included), is still God's chosen way to grow and encourage His people. Attending church regularly isn't just a good habit; it's a spiritual rhythm that helps us stay connected to God and one another. Through worship, teaching, prayer, and relationship, the church becomes a place where we are both shaped and sent. It's not about checking a box; it's about choosing to be present in the story God is writing through His people. Each of us has a role to play in building up the Church and making it a reflection of God's love and grace.

## UNDERSTANDING

We are going to continue to build on what we discussed last week.

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ DEUTERONOMY 31:9–13.**

- Why did God command the entire nation (including children and outsiders) to gather and hear His Word together?
- What might happen to a community of faith that stops regularly coming together to remember God's Word and promises?
- What role does shared remembrance play in the spiritual health of a group?

In Deuteronomy, God commanded Moses to ensure that His law was read aloud before all the people (men, women, children, and foreigners) at regular, public gatherings. This wasn't just about religious routine. It was about forming a people who feared God, knew His ways, and passed faith down through generations. In many ways, the church today serves a similar function: it's where we hear truth together, worship together, and remind one another of who God is and who we are.

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 2:42–47.**

- What practices characterized the early church?
- How does this description reflect the kind of community God intended all along?

The earliest Christians didn't just gather on Sundays; they lived out their faith in continual community. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (Scripture), shared meals, prayed, and cared for one another's needs. Their rhythm was rooted in togetherness and shaped by shared spiritual practices, much like what God intended in Deuteronomy.

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 10:23–25.**

- According to this passage, why is it important not to neglect meeting together?



- What does it mean to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds,” and how is that connected to the church?

Church isn’t just about consuming a message. It’s about encouraging one another to live out our faith. Especially in seasons of hardship or distraction, we need the strength and accountability of others. The author of Hebrews challenges believers not to give up on gathering but to use that time to build one another up.

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## GROUP ACTIVITY

Choose the activity/activities that best fit your group’s dynamic and knowledge level.

### **BEGINNER:** *Church Timeline*

Create a visual or verbal timeline of your church experiences; i.e. churches you’ve attended, events you remember, people who influenced you.

- What role did each season play in your spiritual growth?
- What challenges have you experienced in church community, and how did you respond?
- What are some ways church helped you grow that you couldn’t have experienced on your own?

### **INTERMEDIATE:** *Acts 2 Community Map*

Work together to list everything the early church did in Acts 2:42–47.

- Which of these practices do we still do today?
- Which ones might we need to rediscover or emphasize more?
- How do these actions create unity and support spiritual growth?

### **EXPERT:** *The Church as Christ’s Body*

**READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12–27.**

In this passage, Paul describes the church as a body—diverse in its parts but united in purpose. Use these questions to dive deeper into the original context and what it means for us today:

- **Who was Paul writing to, and what issues in the Corinthian church made this analogy especially powerful?**
  - **What does this metaphor reveal about how church is meant to function; not just as a gathering, but as an interconnected, interdependent body?**
  - **How does understanding the cultural values of Corinth (status, competition, division) make Paul's call to unity and mutual care even more radical?**
  - **What dangers exist when believers see church attendance as optional rather than essential to the body's health?**
  - **What does this passage challenge you to rethink about your role or responsibility in your local church community?**
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## **APPLICATION**

- **Are there any ways you've approached church more as an obligation than as a gift? How might that mindset shift this week?**
- **Who in your church community has spurred you on in your faith? How might you do the same for someone else?**
- **If you've been hurt or disappointed by the church, how might understanding God's vision for church help in your healing process?**
- **What's one practical step you can take to engage more deeply with your church community this week?**

## **PRAYER**

**Thank God for His wisdom in creating the Church as a place for shared worship, encouragement, growth, and healing. Praise Him for the generations of faithful believers who have passed down His truth through the gathered community. Ask the Holy Spirit to stir a renewed passion for showing up—for ourselves and for one another. Pray that our church would reflect the beauty, unity, and mission of the body of Christ and that each person would find their place to belong and serve.**

## **Wk 3 // SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE // CLASS 1**

*Sept 24, 2025*

*Small Group Study: To Be Known Is To Be Loved*

### **OVERVIEW**

Week three of the Small Group Experience discussion guide will happen during the first of four weeks of Medway classes this Fall. Small group leaders are encouraged to bring their groups to classes and enjoy a guided small group experience for each of the four weeks of classes. This week will focus on forming relationships between small group members.

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## **Wk 4 // SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE // CLASS 2**

*Oct. 1, 2025*

*Small Group Study: Team Building Experience*

### **OVERVIEW**

Week four of the Small Group Experience discussion guide will happen during the second of four weeks of Medway classes this Fall. Small group leaders are encouraged to bring their groups to classes and enjoy a guided small group experience for each of the four weeks of classes. This week will focus on deepening relationships among small group members through a guided team-building experience.

## **Wk 5 // SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE // CLASS 3**

*Oct. 8, 2025*

*Small Group Study: Prayer Experience*

### **OVERVIEW**

Week five of the Small Group Experience discussion guide will happen during the third of four weeks of Medway classes this Fall. Small group leaders are encouraged to bring their groups to classes and enjoy a guided small group experience for each of the four weeks of classes. This week will pivot toward a meaningful spiritual experience shared among your small group members.

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## **Wk 6 // SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE // CLASS 4**

*Oct. 15, 2025*

*Small Group Study: Relationship Building*

### **OVERVIEW**

Week six of the Small Group Experience discussion guide will happen during the final week of Medway classes this Fall. Small group leaders are encouraged to bring their groups to classes and enjoy a guided small group experience for each of the four weeks of classes. This week will focus on creating intense and lasting depth between members of your small group.

## **Wk 7 // SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE**

*Oct. 19, 2025*

*Small Group Study: Defining The Relationship*

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### **ICE BREAKER: Roll the dice**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Give everyone the opportunity to roll 1 or 2 dice. Match the number rolled with the month of the year. What significant thing happened during that month of this past year? If you do not have dice, you can use a deck of cards (jacks = 11/Nov, queens = 12/Dec, kings = wild card), or just have each member pick a number between 1-12, then ask the ice breaker question.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

- Which sitcom had the best friend group (example: Seinfeld, Friends, etc)? Defend your answer.
- If you were building your 'perfect match' friend group, what hobbies would you do together, and what kind of personalities would you want in your group?

Friend groups are a big part of life, whether in a TV show, school, work, or church. Some groups bring out the best in us, while others pull us down. Today's lesson is about what makes a truly life-giving group and why God designed us to live out our faith in community rather than in isolation. Just like a TV cast has its unique strengths, every small group has a "personality," and when it's centered on Christ, it becomes a powerful place of growth, encouragement, and mission.

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## UNDERSTANDING

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ:

[DANIEL 3:13-27](#)

[DANIEL 6:5-16](#)

[JOHN 20:19-20](#)

[ACTS 2:42-25](#)

[1 CORINTHIANS 1:10](#)

- Based on these passages, what are some characteristics of a small group?
- What is the difference between a healthy and a toxic small group?
- How would you describe our group?
- How can our group grow in order to better reflect the healthy ‘small groups’ in the Bible?

A healthy small group can be pictured like a three-legged stool: fellowship, discipleship, and service. Fellowship is the bond of friendship and encouragement that keeps us from feeling alone. Discipleship is the intentional pursuit of growing closer to Jesus through prayer, Scripture, and accountability. Service is how the group looks outward, using its gifts to bless others and show God’s love in action. If one of these “legs” is missing, the stool wobbles. But when all three are present, the group is strong, balanced, and able to support the spiritual growth of everyone involved.

- Which of the 3 legs do you think is our group's strength?
  - Which of the 3 legs do you think is our group's weakness?
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## GROUP ACTIVITY

Choose the activity/activities that best fit your group’s dynamic and knowledge level.

**BEGINNER:** *Fellowship Builder*

As a group, plan a simple, fun activity to do together outside of your regular meeting (game night, meal, service project, etc.).

- How does spending intentional time together outside “Bible study mode” build fellowship?
- What’s one practical step we can take this week to put that plan into action?

**INTERMEDIATE:** *Scripture Snapshots*

Provide notecards or paper. Have each person write down one verse that has shaped their faith or carried them through a tough time. Place the verses in the center of the group and read them aloud one by one.

- What themes or similarities do you notice among the verses?
- How do these Scriptures reflect the kind of discipleship we want to practice together?

**EXPERT:** *Service Brainstorm***READ ACTS 2:45.**

The early church looked outward to meet needs. Work together to brainstorm specific ways your group could serve others in the coming month.

- Who in our church or community might God be nudging us to bless?
  - What resources, gifts, or time could we offer as a group?
  - What’s one realistic step we can commit to before we meet again?
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**APPLICATION**

- How can you personally contribute to our group?
  - What time commitment are you willing to make to our group?
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**PRAYER**

Thank God for the people He has brought together in your small group. Pray God would continue to teach each member of the group how to better love and support each other as you all follow God.

## **Wk 8 // SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE**

*Nov. 2, 2025*

*Small Group Study: Serving Together*

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### **\*\* IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT \*\***

On week 10 our group will be having a celebration meal. We will be reflecting on this last session of small groups as well as enjoying a “Friendsgiving” (pre-Thanksgiving) meal together.

- Discuss what kind of food you would like to have at your meal
  - Discuss who will bring what to your celebration meal and any other special instructions.
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### **ICE BREAKER: “Superpower for a Day”**

If you could have one superpower for a day, but you had to use it to serve other people, what would you choose and why?

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### **INTRODUCTION**

- Share about a time when someone served you in a small but meaningful way.
- What’s one of the most memorable acts of kindness you’ve witnessed?

Serving may not be glamorous, but it is powerful. Jesus modeled servant leadership by washing His disciples’ feet and laying down His life for us. Our culture often celebrates being first, strongest, or most successful, but Jesus flips that upside down and teaches us that greatness comes through serving. Today, we’ll explore how serving strengthens our faith, blesses others, and reflects God’s love in practical ways.

## UNDERSTANDING

**HAVE VOLUNTEERS READ:**

**MARK 10:42–45**

**JOHN 13:12–15**

**GALATIANS 5:13–14**

**1 PETER 4:10–11**

- According to these passages, how does Jesus define true greatness?
- What does it mean to “serve one another humbly in love”?
- How has someone’s act of service made a lasting impact on your own life?

Serving is more than just filling a need. It’s the way God shapes our hearts to look more like Jesus. Every time we put others first, we take part in God’s mission to bring His kingdom on earth. Like a mirror reflects light, our serving reflects His love to those around us.

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## GROUP ACTIVITY

Choose the activity/activities that best fit your group’s dynamic and knowledge level.

**BEGINNER:** *Gratitude Notes*

Provide paper and pens. Have each group member write a short note of thanks to someone who serves faithfully in our church (Kidsway worker, Youth Worker, Greeter, Pastor, etc.). Decide how to deliver them together.

- How does expressing gratitude help us notice the quiet ways others serve?
- What impact might these notes have on the people who receive them?

### **INTERMEDIATE:** *Feet of Jesus*

**Read John 13:12–15. Then, as a group, brainstorm what “washing feet” looks like in today’s world. Make a list of modern-day equivalents.**

- **Why do acts of service often feel uncomfortable or inconvenient?**
- **How can we cultivate humility so we are willing to serve in “lowly” ways?**

### **EXPERT:** *Serve Together*

**Read 1 Peter 4:10–11. Then, brainstorm a specific project your group could do in the next month to bless your community (volunteer at a shelter, help a single parent, yard work for elderly neighbors, etc.).**

- **Who in your community might God be putting on your heart to serve?**
- **What strengths or gifts does our group have that could make a difference?**
- **What is one concrete step we can take to begin?**

**Service is never just about the task, but more so about the transformation. When we serve together, we discover God’s joy, deepen our relationships, and grow in spiritual maturity.**

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## **APPLICATION**

- **How can you personally serve this group and contribute to its health?**
- **Where is God calling you to serve outside of this group (church, home, in the community)?**
- **What step of service will you commit to this week?**

**Service isn’t something we graduate into after we’ve grown spiritually. It’s one of the very ways God grows us. The more we serve, the more we experience the heart of Christ.**

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## **PRAYER**

**Thank God for sending Jesus, the ultimate servant, who gave His life for us. Pray that each member of the group would be filled with humility, courage, and joy in serving. Ask God to open doors for your group to bless others in the weeks ahead.**

## **Wk 9 // SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE**

Nov. 9, 2025

*Small Group Study: Lifestyle of Generosity*

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### **\*\* IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT \*\***

On week 10 our group will be having a celebration meal. We will be reflecting on this last session of small groups as well as enjoying a “Friendsgiving” (pre-Thanksgiving) meal together.

- Discuss what kind of food you would like to have at your meal
  - Discuss who will bring what to your celebration meal and any other special instructions.
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### **ICE BREAKER: My First Job**

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Give everyone a piece of paper and have them *secretly* write down their first job (no names on the paper).
  2. Collect all the papers and lay them out on a table (or tape them on the wall).
  3. Each person then guesses who had which job by writing the name of the person they think it belongs to on the paper.
  4. Once everyone has guessed, reveal the answers one at a time.
  5. After revealing, let each person share a short story or memory about that first job.
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### **INTRODUCTION**

- What companies (example, online store, box store, restaurant, etc.) stand out most as giving you the impression that they are generous?

- **Who is the most generous person you know, and why do you consider them generous?**

**Generosity is a powerful force that can transform relationships, communities, and even our own hearts. Whether it's a company that goes above and beyond for its customers or a person who gives selflessly without expecting anything in return, generous acts leave a lasting impact. Today, we'll explore what it means to live a lifestyle of generosity, how God calls us to give, and how our small group can encourage one another to reflect His generous heart in our everyday lives.**

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## **UNDERSTANDING**

- **What do you think it means to live a lifestyle of generosity?**
- **What types of things do you think God wants us to be generous with?**
- **Do you find it easy or difficult to live a lifestyle of generosity?**

**Generosity does not usually come naturally to most of us. Our default is often to hold tightly to our time, resources, and energy, because giving feels costly and uncomfortable. Yet, true generosity is more than random acts of kindness, it's a way of life that reflects God's heart. Learning to be generous takes practice, and it often begins with small, intentional steps of obedience. As we rely on God's Spirit, He softens our hearts, loosens our grip on "what's mine," and teaches us the joy that comes from giving. With His help, generosity can shift from being a struggle to becoming a natural overflow of gratitude and love.**

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ:**

**[LUKE 21:1-4](#)**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8](#)**

**[ACTS 20:35](#)**

**[1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19](#)**

**[PROVERBS 11:24-25](#)**

- **Based on these passages, what are some characteristics of biblical generosity?**

- How does the widow's offering in Luke 21:1-4 challenge or inspire you?
- Why does Jesus praise the actions of the widow over the rich men?
- What's the difference between giving out of obligation and giving out of a generous heart?

**Generosity isn't just about money. It's about sharing our time, talents, and love with others. Like a river that flows freely, a generous life blesses those around us and draws us closer to God. When we give with open hearts, we reflect His character and become part of His work in the world. As a small group, we have a unique opportunity to practice generosity together, encouraging one another to take steps of faith and trust in God's provision.**

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## **GROUP ACTIVITY**

**Choose the activity/activities that best fit your group's dynamic and engagement level.**

### **BEGINNER: *Generosity Reflection***

**As a group, discuss one small, practical way each person can practice generosity this week (e.g., buying coffee for a coworker, volunteering time, or helping a neighbor). Write these commitments down and plan to check in next week.**

- How does starting with small acts of generosity help build a lifestyle of giving?
- What's one step you'll take this week to be generous?

### **INTERMEDIATE: *Gratitude and Giving***

**Provide paper or notecards. Have each person write down one thing they're grateful for that God has provided. Then, discuss how recognizing God's generosity toward us can inspire us to be generous toward others. Share the responses as a group.**

- How does gratitude shape our willingness to give?

- What's one way we can encourage each other to stay grateful and generous?

**EXPERT:** *Generosity in Action*

**READ Acts 20:35.**

**Brainstorm one specific way your group could show generosity to someone in your church or community (e.g., organizing a care package, helping with a service project, or supporting a local ministry). Assign roles and make a plan to act on it within the next month.**

- Who might God be calling us to serve as a group?
  - What resources or gifts can we pool together to make this happen?
  - What's one concrete step we can take before our next meeting?
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## **APPLICATION**

- Which area of generosity (time, resources, talents, or love) do you find most challenging, and why?
  - What's one specific way you'll practice generosity this week, and how can the group support you?
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## **PRAYER**

**Thank God for His incredible generosity toward us, especially through the gift of His Son. Pray that He would open your hearts to give freely and joyfully, trusting in His provision. Ask for wisdom and opportunities to show generosity as a group, and pray for each member to grow in living a lifestyle of generosity that reflects God's love.**



## **Wk 10 // SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE**

*Nov. 16, 2025*

*Small Group Study: Celebration Experience*

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### **MEAL PREP**

**Ensure there is a serving area for the food and drinks. Set up an area for people to eat.**

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### **ICE BREAKER #1: Memory Match**

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- **Prepare cards ahead of time with everyone's name on them.**
- **On each turn, someone draws a card and has to share a favorite memory or something they appreciated about that person from the past 10 weeks.**
- **Encourages affirmation and storytelling.**

### **ICE BREAKER #2: Photo Sharing**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Have everyone in the group share a picture from their phone that is meaningful to them.

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### **MEALTIME**

**Once you are all present, pray for the food and enjoy the meal together. You can let the conversation flow naturally and simply enjoy being together. If the conversation is struggling, try using the fellowship questions below.**

## FELLOWSHIP QUESTIONS

Today's group is meant to unwind and spend some quality time together as you reflect on the last few weeks and look forward to the holiday season.

- What has been your favorite part of this season and why?
  - What new things did you learn about people in this group?
  - Has our experience this session helped you feel more comfortable with those in the small group?
  - Has anyone met up outside of our small group time?
  - What do you hope the next small group season includes?
  - What are your holiday plans
    - Thanksgiving
    - Christmas
  - Will you be serving at Breakfast with Santa at the church?
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## PRAYER

Thank God for the group and the time you have had together during this season. Ask God to keep each of you safe until you meet again.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are going on break, discuss how you will stay in touch during your break and when you will next meet.