

ULC Sermon Study Resource - Facilitator Guide

This resource is intended to serve as a supplement to the ULC Sermon Study Resource for group facilitators. It provides some tips and suggestions for how to use the resources with a small group.

Opening Prayer (5 min):

You should always open group time in prayer. Opening in prayer centers the focus of the group time squarely on God. There are many ways you could do this:

- Pray for the group yourself
- Go around the circle and allow each member to pray
- Ask the group for prayer requests and have members pray for each other

Icebreaker (5 min):

The icebreaker is typically a lighthearted question with the intent of warming up discussion and opening the sermon topic for further study. Have fun with it!

Reading:

Reread the scripture passage for the sermon as a group. You could ask for one or multiple volunteers to read it out loud.

Outline (10 min):

If you have group members who did not hear the sermon, or want to refresh everyone's memory on what the sermon talked about, you can go through the outline and discuss the main points. Questions are scattered throughout the outline to facilitate deeper discussion on the topics opened by the pastor in the sermon.

Reflection/Application Questions (30-45 min):

Conversations based on the reflection/application questions should constitute the bulk of the small group time. These questions are written to be clear, concise, and concrete to help people reflect on how the questions apply to their own lives. **You do not have to get to every question.** Each group is different, and different questions will spark discussion in each group. Don't halt conversation simply for the sake of hitting all 5 questions! Allow the discussion to flow naturally, and move on if it begins to die down.

Suggestions for further study (5-15 min):

If you get through the reflection/application questions with time left, this section provides some scripture references and associated questions to extend discussion of the sermon topic to other parts of the bible. Its purpose is to shine light on the fact that sermon topics are not restricted to the verses preached on, but extend throughout the cohesive narrative of scripture. If you don't get to this section, encourage your group members to check out the passages on their own throughout the week!

Closing Prayer:

Just as we opened in prayer, it is good practice to close group time in prayer as well. The closing prayer from the pastor at the end of each sermon is written at the bottom of the resource. It often summarizes the main points of the sermon and ties together the content of the study well. Feel free to have someone read the pastor's prayer to close, or close in prayer using any of the techniques mentioned above.

Thank you for your willingness to serve as a leader at ULC! Your service is a gift from God. We hope this resource helps you feel more equipped to lead a small group using the Sermon Study Resources. If you have any questions about a study or how to best use it in a group, feel free to contact Pastor Gabe, Pastor Marcus, John Rathje, Larry Frank, or Justin Beemer.