

## Sermon Based Small Group - 1<sup>st</sup> Session (first section 30 minutes)

The mission of Good Shepherd is to “Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” The Discipleship path at Good Shepherd is Worship, Serve, Belong. Good Shepherd’s vision is to transform 1 life at a time by sharing Jesus in energizing & compelling ways.

### **Belong**

The purpose of a small group is to actively pursue Christ through relationships, as the small groups worship, serve, and belong together.

### **Why Small Groups?**

We will begin by providing a Biblical foundation on which SBSG groups have been designed. Let’s begin by reading Acts 2:37-47. Discuss the activity you see in the early church.

Acts 2:42 (NRSV): They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

**Worship God:** Acts 2:42 – Apostles’ teaching in small groups.

**Serve:** Acts 2:45 – Serve those in the small group and in the community.

**Belong Together:** Acts 2:42 – Fellowship and breaking of bread in small groups.

**Prayer:** Acts 2:42 - Lifted each other up in prayer

**What will a sermon based small group do?** The purpose of our small group is to actively pursue Christ through relationships, as we worship, serve, and belong together. (This group is not about being best friends with everyone in the group; it’s about spiritual growth.)

1. Small groups will build **Christ-centered** relationships within the Church by:
2. Small Groups will be a **safe** place to learn about Christ.
3. Small Groups will provide a place where members can **practice** living for Christ.
4. Small Groups will **serve** together.

### **Framework for Sermon Based Small Group:**

#### **Roles within the Small Group:**

**Coordinator:** This is the person that takes responsibility for the group. Here is a list of what a coordinator would take responsibility for.

**Facilitator:** The word teacher or leader does not create the atmosphere we’re looking for. Unlike a teacher or leader, a facilitator is not expected to have all the answers or to have the final say on any issues. A facilitator will guide the conversations and welcome other people to participate in the discussion. Also, the role of facilitator is passed around, so people can take turns.

**Host:** Provides snacks, space, set-up of room. 12-16 people

**Frequency and Times of Small Group:** Sermon based small groups meet weekly for one hour and fifteen minutes. There needs to be a very clear beginning and end time to the group. Typical Small Groups will begin meeting after Labor Day (week of September 9) and will end the week of May 5). Small Groups will break during the holidays, June, July, and August. (Small Groups will be encouraged to get together for fellowship 2x while on summer break).

### **Covenant Form (pass out, discuss and sign form)**

**Proceed to 2<sup>nd</sup> Session (30 minutes)**



## **Sermon Based Small Group – Series - Purpose-full**

### **The Purpose of a Sermon Based Small Group (to be read at the beginning of each gathering)**

The purpose of our small group is to actively pursue Christ through relationships, as we worship, serve, and belong together.

### **READ ALOUD BY ALL (allow this prayer to shape your time together)**

**Dear God, help me in this dialogue to be humble & suspend judgment. I recognize that we are all created in your image. Give me courage to stay curious about each other by asking questions. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to meet together and in so doing grow closer to you. AMEN**

### **Series: Purpose-full**

**Opening question:** Share something humorous from your past that might be a bit embarrassing.

**Sermon Synopsis:** There isn't much about Moses origins that would make you think he would be the leader the God would raise up to lead his people. Neither hard circumstances nor bad choices disqualified Moses from being called by God.

**Discipleship Point:** Your past doesn't detour God's purpose

### **Bible Reading**

Reading the Bible is about reading for practice and spiritual formation – spiritual formation, in which the reader seeks to be formed by the Spirit of God.

**Passage(s) from the sermon:** Exodus 2: 1-10, 11-22

What questions do you have about the passage/sermon?

What excuses do you use when God calls you?

What do you feel God is saying to you through this passage?

### **Prayer (15 minutes w/ ending prayer)**

Share a one or two sentence prayer request with the Small Group for this next week. Remember these prayer requests are about your life not someone else's.

### **(Sample Prayer)**

God, we thank you for your presence with us. We lift up these requests to you knowing that you care deeply about us...we pray for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and (fill in prayer requests) ... God we know that you have heard our request and we release all outcomes to you and your glory. It's in your Son's name Jesus that we pray...**AMEN.**