

SAC Small Groups Discussion Guide – Mar. 1st, 2026

This guide comes with the expectation that even if someone has missed the Sunday service, they have watched the sermon before coming to their small group.

Fellowship Time

Make sure to have time where people can chat and catch up. This section could include a dinner together, having a potluck, preparing snacks, etc. The key to this section is make people feel welcomed and seen.

Read the Scripture & Overview Aloud Together

This section contains the text and a brief summary of the sermon that was preached on Sunday. It will have the main point explained as a way to help those remember the sermon. This is not an in-depth overview because the expectation is that everyone will take the time to listen to the sermon. Make sure to read this aloud for everyone to hear.

Text

John 17:20-25

20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one — 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

24 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

25 “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

Overview of Sermon

This week, Pastor Sam dove into the last verses of Jesus’ prayer for all believers. In the church, unity is one of the most important characteristics that we are called to embody. It’s important to recognize that when we have a discussion on unity, there are parts of our individual stories that are uniform in truth (Common Connections) and there are other elements where our unique and distinct stories are woven into the larger narrative of God’s story (Uncommon Harmony).

Pastor Sam highlighted three common connections for our unity. The first is the truth of the Gospel which Jesus prayed that all disciples (both present and future) would cling onto in the face of persecution (v.20). The second is unity itself which is perfectly demonstrated in the

relationship between the Father and the Son (v.21). The Father and Son are committed to the mission of redeeming humanity through the incarnational love and truth of the Father in the Son all to the glory of God. The church is called to model this unity, but it does not mean uniformity or consensus on every single secondary or tertiary issue. Lastly, every single disciple of Jesus is uniform in the sense that all of us have the Holy Spirit who lives and indwells in us (vv.22-23). The Spirit transforms and shapes us into individuals that reflect the nature of Christ.

In terms of Uncommon Harmony, these are the unique features of our experiences that culminate in the grand and unifying story of God's redemptive work in the world. The first uncommon harmony is our relationship with God (v.24). Jesus prays that all the believers would be with Him and see His glory. But the beautiful part is that we are invited into God's grand story, to play a part to reveal God's glory to the world and in a way that is unique to our relationship with God. Lastly, our relationship with God is marked by His love which is expressed over a lifetime in step with Him (vv.25-26). Unity is vital so that our mission to the world will be compelling and distinct. We have to hold in tension the objective truth that we are given and our subjective experience of the world and God.

Discussion Questions

These questions are prompts to help the group have meaningful dialogue over the sermon this past weekend. Do not feel the need to ask all these questions. You are more than welcome to create your own questions or mix the questions together.

Connection to Other (Icebreaker/Light)

- What is one funny but embarrassing memory you have from growing up?

Connection to Head (Study/Knowledge Questions)

- Read the passage in John again. What does this passage teach us about God?

Connection to Heart (Deeper Engagement)

- The passage states that the world will know God sent Jesus through the unity of believers. What does this suggest about the evangelistic power of Christian community versus individual witness?
- What are the defining aspects of our church community that everyone needs to be unified on and what are the secondary and tertiary issues that can disrupt the unity of the church community?
- How does social media, constant information cycles, and relativism challenge Christian unity and what steps can we take to preserve unity in light of these challenges?

Reflect and Discuss the Practice and Prayer.

This is an opportunity for accountability and formation in your group. Accountability to ensure people are practicing the practices and formation because we believe that these practices will shape and form us into the people that God intended us to be. Take time to practice this together and reflect on each person's experience of these practices.

Practice: Practice forgiveness and reconciliation with another disciple of Christ this week.

- Take time to prayerfully examine your heart by reciting Psalm 139:23-24).
- If anyone's name or face comes to mind that you are in need of restoring a relationship, write down their name.
- Make plans during the week to meet up with them and pursue reconciliation with them.

Prayer: Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive those indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, both now and forever. Amen.

Prayer Together.

Take some time to pray with each other. This is not a time for gossip or to be cynical, this is an opportunity to share with each other our burdens, to celebrate and praise God together, and to pray expectantly that God would move.