

Small Group Guide

BROOK HILLS: VISION, MISSION, AND GOAL

The Church at Brook Hills

Dr. David Platt

October 30, 2011

Psalm 67

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to train your group into potential disciple-makers and lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word with His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

Relate . . .

Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:

Welcome—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.

Review—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. (The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time.) Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to review the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.

Prayer—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.

Reflect . . .

Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications for our lives. (As a training tool, leaders might want to have various members summarize the teachings in their own words each week sharing how they think the Scripture applied to the original hearers and how the principles apply to us today.)

Message Outline

PSALM 67

- God has given us extravagant grace.
 - Spiritual truth.
 - Material treasure.
- God is worthy of extravagant glory.
 - He desires to be known, praised, feared, and enjoyed by all nations.
- We cannot disconnect the blessing of God from the purpose of God.

WE GLORIFY GOD BY MAKING DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS.

Philosophically...

Vision

Mission

Goal

Practically...

Worship Gatherings

Small Groups

Global Mission



“WE GLORIFY GOD...”

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- We exist to exalt the glory of God.
 - God orchestrates history to display His glory.
 - God ordains His church to enjoy His glory.
- We glorify God as we become like Christ.
 - Following Christ and becoming like Him is our vision.
- Through our worship gatherings, we exalt God as the only One who is...
 - Worthy of our worship.
 - Worthy of their worship.

“...BY MAKING DISCIPLES...”

- As we become like Christ, we want to see others become like Christ.
 - This is the essence of Jesus’ command for us to make disciples.
- Every disciple is a disciple-maker.
 - We are not an audience of service-attendees; we are a community of disciple-makers.
- Four primary facets of disciple-making...
 - Share the Word.
 - Show the Word.
 - Teach the Word.
 - Serve the World.
- The question WE are constantly asking in our lives and as the church: How can we most effectively make disciples of all nations?
 - We believe small groups are the primary avenue for disciple-making to occur.
 - As brothers and sisters, we lock arms with one another to...
 - Experience biblical community.
 - Accomplish biblical mission.

“...OF ALL NATIONS.”

- Everything we do at Brook Hills, we do ultimately for the sake of God’s glory in all nations.
 - Over 11,000 people groups in the world.
 - Over 6,000 people groups still unreached with the Gospel.
- A three-tiered strategy...
 - Short-Term Mission...Giving 2% of your life during the year to go to a different context.
 - Mid-Term Mission...Spending 2 months to 2 years of your life in a different context.
 - Long-Term Mission...Moving your life and family to another context.
- We want to be a part of accomplishing the Great Commission and seeing the end of the world as we know it.

THE WIN...

- World-Impacting Disciple-Makers
 - Men and women who are multiplying the Gospel by making disciples of all nations with their lives.
 - We are a church full of disciple-makers who really believe that by God’s grace we can affect Birmingham and the nations for God’s glory.
- Psalm 67 is a prayer...may it be constant in our lips.
- Psalm 67 is a purpose...may it captivate our lives and our church.
- Psalm 67 is a promise...may it elicit risk-taking, life-giving, death-defying confidence in our King.

Message Summary

Using Psalm 67 as the foundation, today’s message is a summary of the vision, mission, and goal of The Church at Brook Hills. The truth that “we glorify God by making disciples of all nations” carries implications for every decision we make in our lives and as a church, for we are driven by that goal. We exist to exalt God’s glory, for God is worthy of our worship and the worship of every soul on the planet. As believers become more

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like Christ, we also become disciple-makers, just as Jesus was, being led by His Word and His Holy Spirit to accomplish biblical mission through biblical community. Everything we do at Brook Hills is ultimately for the sake of God's glory in all nations, and the three-tiered strategy of short-term, mid-term, and long-term missions allows us to be a part of accomplishing the Great Commission.

Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help review the application of God's Word to our Head (What does God want me to know?), to our Heart (What does God want me to desire/value?), and to our Hands (What does God want me to do?).

- Read Psalm 67. Why does God bless His people?
- Why is it so tempting to disconnect the blessings of God from the purpose of God? How are we as a church tempted to think that the gospel revolves around us?
- What does it look like when someone enjoys God's glory? Do you enjoy God's glory? How?
- How have you sacrificed the right to determine the direction of your life? In doing so, where has God led you?
- How has Christ in you turned you outward—to being a fisher of people? Can someone be committed to Christ and *not* make disciples?
- What is the difference between a receiver and a reproducer? How did Christ's disciples become reproducers after His death and resurrection?
- What hinders your drive to make disciples? How can you overcome those hindrances through God's Word and by being led by His Spirit? (See Galatians 5:16.)
- Pastor David said, "You'll plateau in Christianity until you pour into others." Are you growing, or have you reached a plateau? What steps can you take this week to stop a plateau?
- Describe your evangelistic strategy. How effective is it? How can you as a small group come alongside each other in reaching people and making disciples?
- How does God's command to "make disciples of all nations" play out in a specific calling for each believer's life? Why are total surrender to God ("a blank check") and a life led by His Spirit essential?
- How can attitudes that are judgmental, self-centered, and legalistic creep in and be destructive to our mission? (See 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.)
- Who do you know that you can bless with the spiritual blessings you have received this week? Who do you know that you can bless with the material blessings you have received?
- Take a moment to pray Psalm 67. How can we as a small group encourage each other to live out Psalm 67 as a prayer, purpose, and promise?

Respond . . .

Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of today's study. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from this study?
- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?
- According to the truths from this study, what does God want you to desire/value?
- How do your values need to change to align with His values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this study?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?
- What is going to be the most difficult aspect of this study to personally apply?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength to apply these truths, for personal needs, for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel, and for our weekly prayer focus as a church..

Weekly Prayer Focus ... (from our worship guide)

- ***Lives and Church:*** Pray that God would give you individually and us as a church a steadfast, unwavering commitment to seek His glory by making disciples of all nations.
- ***Local:*** This week we are praying for Pathways, a United Way agency that serves homeless women and children. We are also praying for First Baptist Alabaster, Steve Andrews, Pastor.
- ***Global:*** This week we are praying for Brook Hills Long-Term Missionary Grace Thornton, serving in London among unreached peoples.