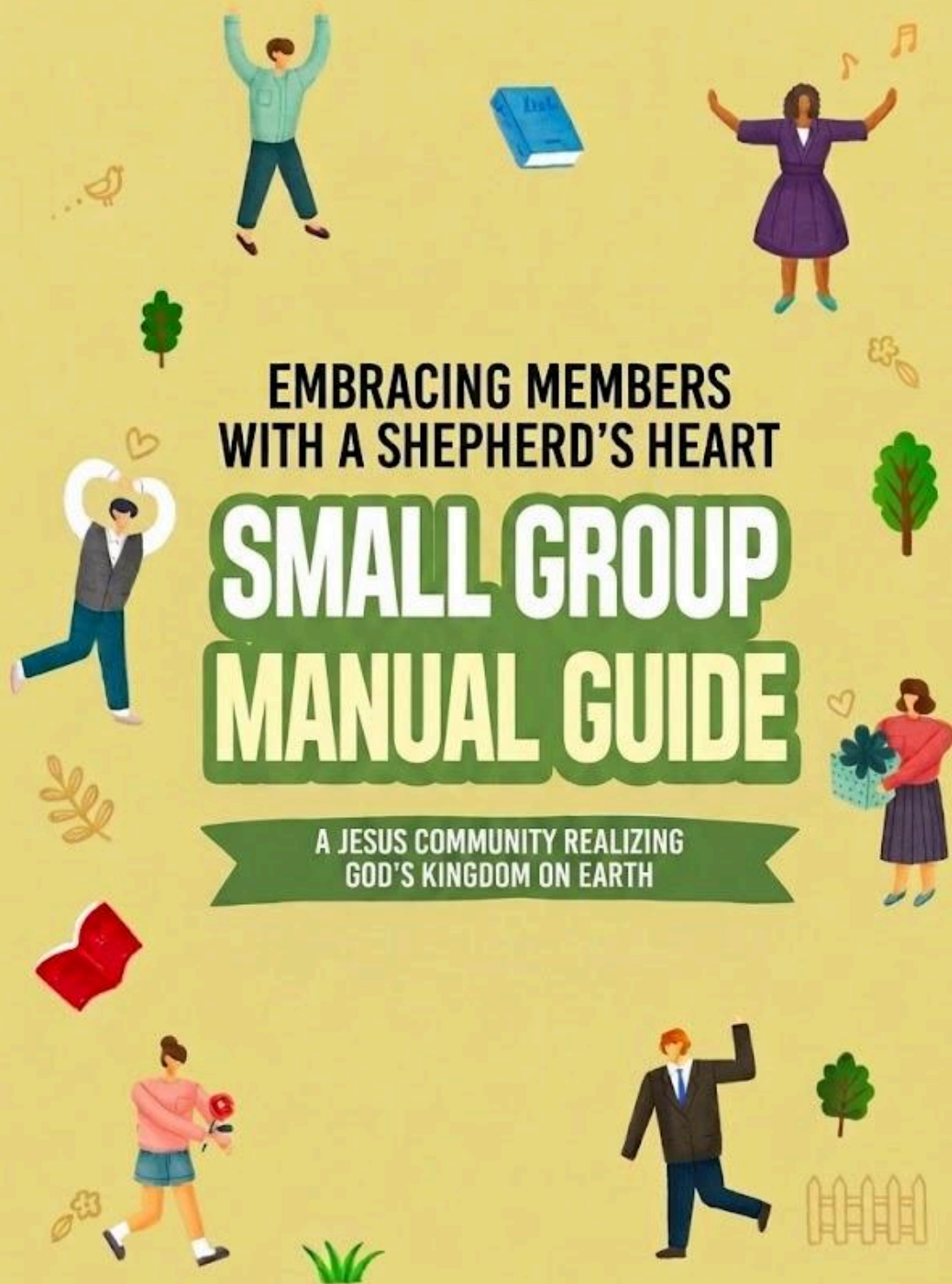


Family • Faith • Holy Spirit • Mission



Community
Church of Seattle

Small Group Preview 1 (Leader Usage)

(Living Life Weekly Bible Study 1, October 22nd Scripture)

Title: Everything Belongs to God

Focus

When we acknowledge everything we have received as belonging to the Lord, we can willingly give it for the Lord's work.

Ice Breakers

When we acknowledge everything we have received as belonging to the Lord, we can willingly give it for the Lord's work.

Examine God's Word

Read 1 Chronicles 29:10–19 together. Circle or underline repeated words or expressions that carry important meaning.

NIV	ESV	GOD'S WORD
¹⁰ David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "Praise be to you, LORD, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. ¹¹ Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. ¹² Wealth and honor come	¹⁰ Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. ¹¹ Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. ¹² Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your	10 he praised the LORD while the whole assembly watched. David said, "May you be praised, LORD God of Israel, our father forever and ever.[a] 11 Greatness, power, splendor, glory, and majesty are yours, LORD, because everything in heaven and on earth is yours. The kingdom is yours, LORD, and you are honored as head of all things. 12 Riches and honor are in front of you. You rule everything. You hold power and strength in your hands, and you can make anyone great and strong. 13 "Our God, we thank you and praise your wonderful name. 14 But who am I and who are my people that you enable us to give so generously? Everything comes from you. We give you only what has come from your hands.

from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. ¹³ Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. ¹⁴ “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. ¹⁵ We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. ¹⁶ LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. ¹⁷ I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. ¹⁸ LORD, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and	hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. ¹³ And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name. ¹⁴ “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. ¹⁵ For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. ¹⁶ O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. ¹⁷ I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. ¹⁸ O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you. ¹⁹ Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments,	¹⁵ To you we are all like our ancestors—foreigners without permanent homes. Our days are as fleeting as shadows on the ground. There’s no hope for them.” ¹⁶ “LORD, our God, all this wealth that we gathered to build a temple for your holy name is from you. All of it is yours. ¹⁷ I know, my God, that you examine hearts and delight in honesty. With an honest heart I have willingly offered all these things. I’ve been overjoyed to see your people here offering so willingly to you. ¹⁸ LORD God of our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, always watch over your people’s deepest thoughts. Keep their hearts directed toward you. ¹⁹ Make my son Solomon completely committed to you, so that he will obey your commands, requests, and laws and do everything to build the palace I have planned.”
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thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. ¹⁹ And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, statutes and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided.”	your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision.”	
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Understand Setting

The passage describes a scene from the final period of David’s life and is a confession of faith recorded at the transition when the kingship was passed on to Solomon. This is not simply a personal prayer, but has the character of a public worship service in which the king and the people participate together. In the ancient Near Eastern concept of kingship, the king possessed absolute authority as a representative of the deity. However, David directly overturns this structure by declaring that God, not the human king, is the true ruler. This teaches the fundamental principle that the community of Israel must remain a faith community centered not on political power, but on God.

Meditate the Text

1. When abundant materials had been prepared for the construction of the temple, how did David confess who God is? (verses 11 – 12)

Answer: David confessed that power and victory belong to God, and that everything in heaven and earth belongs to the Lord.

Explanation: David confesses that the source of everything was God when sufficient materials had been prepared for the construction of the temple. When we have plenty, it is easy to think that we accomplished it through our own abilities and efforts. However, the Bible says that

even the ability to acquire wealth is given by God, so we should not take the credit for ourselves (Deut. 8:17 – 18). The reason the Chronicler recorded this confession is because what the community beginning again must hold onto first is the recognition of God's sovereignty.

2. What did David pray for his son Solomon? (verse 19)

Answer: David prayed that Solomon would keep the Lord's commandments, instructions, and statutes with a wholehearted heart, and that he would build the temple.

Explanation: A "wholehearted heart" means a heart that is not divided and is completely focused on God. David did not ask for stability in Solomon's kingship or for wealth and prosperity. Instead, he prayed for a wholehearted heart toward God and obedience to His Word. This shows that more important than the outward achievement of building a magnificent temple is the inner faith and attitude of obedience needed to carry out that work. The place where God truly desires to dwell is not a magnificent building, but a wholehearted heart that trembles before His Word and obeys. We must remember that the true foundation of the temple is not stone and gold, but the undivided heart of a person devoted to God.

Personal Application & Sharing

Share where and how you would like to be used through the things God has given you, such as wealth, knowledge, abilities, and relationships.

Point: The small-group leader should guide the members to discuss how they can share with those around them the wealth, knowledge, and other things God has given them.

(Example) "I will use some of the money God has given me each month to help those in need."
"Since some people around me cannot afford to attend a guitar academy, I will teach them guitar by donating my skills."

Tip: For a richer discussion, you may also use the "Additional Questions" provided below.

What lesson does David's life, in which he acknowledged God's sovereignty, teach me?

Small Group Preview 2 (Leader Usage)

(Living Life Weekly Bible Study 5, October 28th Scripture)

Title: Searching for Lost Love

Focus

Believers should strive to enjoy the intimacy of an unbroken relationship with the Lord.

Ice Breakers

An actor turned down the lead role in a movie because they failed to recognize the quality and potential of the film. Later, the movie received widespread acclaim from the public and became a major box-office success. Have you ever made a choice you regretted or had a moment when you wished you could turn back time?

Examine God's Word

Read Song of Songs 5:1–16 together. Circle or underline repeated words or expressions that carry important meaning.

NIV	ESV	GOD'S WORD
I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk.	I came to my garden, my sister, my bride, I gathered my myrrh with my spice, I ate my honeycomb with my honey, I drank my wine with my milk.	My bride, my sister, I will come to my garden. I will gather my myrrh with my spice. I will eat my honeycomb with my honey. I will drink my wine with my milk. Eat, my friends! Drink and become intoxicated with expressions of love!
Friends	Others	[BRIDE]
Eat, friends, and drink; drink your fill of love.	Eat, friends, drink, and be drunk with love!	2 I sleep, but my mind is awake. Listen! My beloved is knocking.
She	She	[GROOM]
² I slept but my heart was awake. Listen! My beloved is knocking:	² I slept, but my heart was awake. A sound! My beloved is	Open to me, my true love, my sister, my dove, my perfect one. My head is wet with dew,

“Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one. My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night.” ³ I have taken off my robe— must I put it on again? I have washed my feet— must I soil them again? ⁴ My beloved thrust his hand through the latch-opening; my heart began to pound for him. ⁵ I arose to open for my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with flowing myrrh, on the handles of the bolt. ⁶ I opened for my beloved, but my beloved had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure. I looked for him but did not find him. I called him but he did not answer. ⁷ The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. They beat me, they bruised me; they took away my cloak, those watchmen of the walls! ⁸ Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you— if you find my beloved, what will you tell him? Tell him I am faint with love. Friends ⁹ How is your beloved better than others, most beautiful of women? How is your beloved better than others, that you so charge us? She	knocking. “Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one, for my head is wet with dew, my locks with the drops of the night.” ³ I had put off my garment; how could I put it on? I had bathed my feet; how could I soil them? ⁴ My beloved put his hand to the latch, and my heart was thrilled within me. ⁵ I arose to open to my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with liquid myrrh, on the handles of the bolt. ⁶ I opened to my beloved, but my beloved had turned and gone. My soul failed me when he spoke. I sought him, but found him not; I called him, but he gave no answer. ⁷ The watchmen found me as they went about in the city; they beat me, they bruised me, they took away my veil, those watchmen of the walls. ⁸ I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my beloved, that you tell him I am sick with love.	my hair with the dewdrops of night. [BRIDE] ³ I have taken off my clothes! Why should I put them on _ again _? I have washed my feet! Why should I get them dirty _ again _? ⁴ My beloved put his hand through the keyhole. My heart throbbed for him. ⁵ I got up to open for my beloved. My hands dripped with myrrh, and my fingers were drenched with liquid myrrh, on the handles of the lock. ⁶ I opened for my beloved, but my beloved had turned away. He was gone! I almost died when he left. I looked for him, but I did not find him. I called for him, but he did not answer me. ⁷ The watchmen making their rounds in the city found me. They struck me! They wounded me! Those watchmen on the walls took my robe from me! ⁸ Young women of Jerusalem, swear to me that if you find my beloved you will tell him I am hopelessly lovesick. [THE CHORUS OF YOUNG WOMEN] ⁹ Most beautiful of women, what makes your beloved better than any other beloved? What makes your beloved better than any other beloved that you make us swear this way? [BRIDE] ¹⁰ My beloved is dazzling yet ruddy. He stands out among 10,000 men. ¹¹ His head is the finest gold. His hair is wavy, black as a raven. ¹² His eyes are set like doves bathing in milk. ¹³ His cheeks are like a garden of spices, a garden that produces scented herbs.
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¹⁰ My beloved is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand. ¹¹ His head is purest gold; his hair is wavy and black as a raven. ¹² His eyes are like doves by the water streams, washed in milk, mounted like jewels. ¹³ His cheeks are like beds of spice yielding perfume. His lips are like lilies dripping with myrrh. ¹⁴ His arms are rods of gold set with topaz. His body is like polished ivory decorated with lapis lazuli. ¹⁵ His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of pure gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as its cedars. ¹⁶ His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, this is my friend, daughters of Jerusalem.		His lips are lilies that drip with myrrh. ¹⁴ His hands are disks of gold set with emerald. His chest is a block of ivory covered with sapphires. ¹⁵ His legs are columns of marble set on bases of pure gold. His form is like Lebanon, choice as the cedars. ¹⁶ His mouth is sweet in every way. Everything about him is desirable! This is my beloved, and this is my friend, young women of Jerusalem.
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Understand the Setting

The Song of Songs has traditionally been known as a work of Solomon (1:1), but there are various views regarding its author and origin. There are two major traditions of interpretation. One is the literal interpretation, which emphasizes that human love itself within the institution of marriage is part of God's good creation. The other is the allegorical interpretation, which views the bride and groom respectively as God and

Israel, and Christ and the church. These two interpretations are not mutually exclusive. The Song of Songs honestly sings about the beauty of human love while also pointing to the love of God that lies beyond it.

Meditate the Text

1. Observation and Reflection | Why did the bride not immediately open the door for the groom? (verses 2 – 3) What happened as a result of delaying opening the door? (verses 6 – 7)

Answer: Because she had taken off her clothes to sleep and had washed her feet, she hesitated to open the door, and eventually she wandered around looking for the groom after he had left.

Explanation: The reason the bride rejected the groom was not dramatic or serious; she was simply bothered and tired. However, that small hesitation resulted in a separation from the groom. Spiritual stagnation begins in the same way. When we distance ourselves from the Word and prayer because we are busy and tired, and when we worship merely as a formality, at some point we realize that we have grown distant from God. What is important at that moment is to get up right then and turn back toward God.

2. Observation and Reflection | How did the bride describe the appearance of her beloved groom? (verses 10 – 16)

Answer: She introduces him as “the most outstanding among many” and describes his appearance using images such as pure gold, a dove, lilies, and gold. Then she confesses, “My beloved, and my friend” (verse 16).

Explanation: The bride, who had wandered around looking for the groom, asks the daughters of Jerusalem to help her find the one she loves (the groom) (verse 8). The various metaphors used to describe the groom reveal, beyond his outward splendor, the nobility he possesses, his unchanging faithfulness, and the glory of his rule in an integrated way. What is particularly noteworthy is the bride’s final expression describing the groom: “This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem” (verse 16). The groom is not merely an object of worship or a distant being, but her closest friend. In the same way, the Lord is both someone we revere and, at the same time, our most intimate friend (John 15:15).

Personal Application & Sharing

What is your relationship with the Lord like these days? Share what you might try in order to maintain or restore an intimate relationship with the Lord.

Point: Guide the sharing so that members experiencing spiritual stagnation can focus not on guilt or condemnation, but on the Lord's faithfulness and restoration.

(Example) "I have been so busy with various things that I have put the Lord in the background. I will listen to an audio Bible in the car on my way to work."

"I will start praying again after becoming disappointed and giving up because of delayed answers."

Tip: For a richer discussion, you may also use the "Additional Questions" below.

In the passage, the bride describes the groom as "my friend" (verse 16). When do I feel that the Lord is my friend?

Ministry Prayer Request for October

Major Ministry Schedule

May the leadership of every ministry team that plans and carries out ministry be filled with the Holy Spirit and wisdom.

Through the 17th Open Table ministry, may the members of the church share beautiful fellowship in the Lord and have the right foundation of faith firmly established.

Through the second-half discipleship course (a series on Colossians), may the faith of the members become stronger, and may they experience growth and maturity.

During the community pastoral visitation taking place from October through December, pour out Your grace of healing and restoration.

May the commissioning service to be held on Sunday, October 18, proceed with grace, and may those being commissioned become faithful and trustworthy co-workers before God and the church.

Through the 2026 Education Conference taking place on Saturday, October 10, may the teachers of the next generation be encouraged and challenged, so that the next generation may soar even higher.

Through “Mission Gate,” may the small one-minute prayers offered every Sunday come together to become a great miracle of love, and may all the members of the church enjoy the joy of always walking alongside missionaries as “prayer warriors.”

May the Life of the Believer QT become a regular practice in every small group, so that each community may be rich in the Word and fellowship.

May You give the members of EW abundant grace at every worship service, and may small groups and small-group leaders be well established so that new members can settle into the church well.