

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

TOOLS FOR CREATING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW | ROMANS 12:2



**WE
ARE WOL**

wolgroups.com

Water
of Life
community church



Where did God show up?

As you see the goodness of God move in your life, use this page to write down how He's blessed you. Encourage one another and celebrate victories within and/or outside of your group meetings.

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WEEK 1: RELATIONSHIPS

Transforming lives by strengthening families and building relationships

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

This week begins our We Are WOL series by asking an important question: **Who is WOL?** Water of Life is not just a building, a service, or a program. WOL is a body of believers, a Spirit-led community formed by Jesus, rooted in relationship, and called to carry His life into the world.

At Water of Life, values shape what matters, what gets protected, what gets practiced, and what gets passed on. Our values are rooted in the ministry of Jesus and summarized by **Passion for God and Compassion for People.**

Community is where people are known, loved, challenged, and changed. As we get smaller to grow bigger, relationships become the place where discipleship, care, healing, equipping, and mission happen. We are WOL when we become a Spirit-formed family where people are known, loved, challenged, and changed.

KEY VERSES

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

Look up these additional verses:

Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV); Romans 12:3-5 (NIV); Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Who Is WOL?

Every church has values that shape who they are, what they protect, and how they live.

- a. When you think about Water of Life, what words or experiences come to mind?
- b. Why do you think it matters for a church family to remember who God has called them to be?

2 Passion for God, Compassion for People

WOL's values are summarized by Passion for God and Compassion for People.

- a. What do you think it means to have a genuine passion for God?
- b. How should our passion for God shape the way we treat and move toward people?

3 We Do Not Grow Alone

Community is more than attending the same church. It is being known, loved, challenged, and changed.

- a. Why do you think spiritual growth is difficult when we try to do it alone?
- b. Who has God used in your life to encourage, challenge, or help you grow?

4 Honest and Known

Following Jesus invites us to live honestly with God, ourselves, and others.

- a. Why can it be difficult to let people truly know what is going on in us?
- b. How can vulnerability in a healthy community help us become more like Jesus?

From Attendance to Ownership

Water of Life's future is not only shaped by the pastors who teach from the stage, but by Spirit-filled people who love Jesus and carry this calling together in everyday life.

- a. What is the difference between saying, "I go there," and saying, "This is my church family"?
- b. What is one step you can take this week to move deeper into belonging, serving, or community?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Community is not just something we attend. It is something we help create through honesty, vulnerability, and love.

- Where have you been tempted to stay disconnected, guarded, or on the outside?
- What is one place Jesus may be inviting you to step out and into deeper community?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This week, practice being in community by:

- Reach out to one person from church or group and check in on them.
- Ask God to show you where you need to be more open, present, or intentional.
- Look for one way to encourage, serve, or pray for someone around you.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live as part of a Spirit-formed family where people are known, loved, challenged, and changed.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV), *"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."*

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

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WEEK 2: SENDING

Establishing long-term relationships throughout the world in order to transform lives

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

This week focuses on **Mission** through the value of **Sending**. From the beginning, Water of Life has been called to reach beyond the walls of our buildings and homes and into the world around us. Sending is not just a global outreach department, a short-term trip, or something only a few people do. Sending is the posture of every follower of Jesus. We are sent because Jesus sends us, the Spirit empowers us, and the world needs the hope of the Kingdom.

At WOL, sending includes the nations, but it also includes our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, campuses, families, and cities. We are not just joining a ministry; we are being sent to people. We are WOL when we live as sent people who carry the hope of Jesus wherever God places us.

KEY VERSES

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

Look up these additional verses:

Acts 1:8 (NIV); Luke 4:18-19 (NIV); Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 What Does It Mean to Be Sent?

Sending is not only about going somewhere far away. It is living with the awareness that God has placed us where we are for a reason and a purpose.

- a. When you hear the word "sent," what comes to mind?
- b. Why do you think it can be easy to think mission is only for missionaries, pastors, or people overseas?

2 Sent by Jesus

Jesus' final words to His disciples were not an invitation to stay comfortable, but a commission to go.

- a. How does the great commission change the way that we view our mission when we remember that Jesus is the One sending us?
- b. Where do you need confidence that Jesus is with you as you go?

3 Empowered by the Spirit

Jesus does not send us to go in our own strength but He gives us the Holy Spirit to lead us, strengthen us, and help us carry His hope.

- a. Why do you think that Jesus connects mission with the power of the Holy Spirit?
- b. Where do you feel the most aware that you need the Holy Spirit's help right now in your life?

4 Your Everyday Mission Field

Sending includes the nations, but it also includes our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, campuses, families, and cities.

- a. Who are some people God has already placed around you in everyday life?
- b. What would it look like to carry the hope of Jesus to them in a natural, loving way?

As We Go, We Grow

Mission is not only about what God does through us but it is also about what God is doing in us as we continue to obey Him.

- a. How have you grown through stepping outside your comfort zone?
- b. What is one step of obedience Jesus may be inviting you to take this week?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Being sent is not only about crossing oceans. It is about opening our eyes to where God has already placed us.

- Where have you treated mission like something far away instead of something right in front of you?
- Who might Jesus be sending you to love, serve, encourage, pray for, or even invite?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This week, practice being in community by:

- Pray each morning: *"Holy Spirit, who are You sending me to today?"*
- Reach out to one person God has placed in your life and encourage them.
- Look for one simple way to serve, listen, pray, or invite someone this week.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live as a sent person who carries the hope of Jesus wherever God places you.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:8 (NIV), *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

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WEEK 3: CARING

Meeting the physical needs of the poor in order to meet spiritual needs, resulting in transformed lives

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

This week focuses on **Mission** through the value of **Caring**. Caring for the poor, the hurting, the vulnerable, and the forgotten has always been central to the heart of Jesus. We see this in Luke 4 as Jesus announces good news to the poor, freedom for the oppressed, and the favor of the Lord. In Matthew 25, Jesus reminds us that when we move toward the hungry, thirsty, stranger, sick, the vulnerable, and imprisoned, we are moving toward Him.

Caring is not just something WOL does through a ministry or department. It is the compassion of Jesus moving through His people. God does not bless us just for our blessing's sake, but He blesses us so we can be a blessing to others. **We are called to be rivers, not reservoirs.**

We are WOL when the compassion of Jesus moves us toward the poor, the hurting, and the forgotten.

KEY VERSES

Matthew 25:35-40 (NIV)

Look up these additional verses:

Luke 4:18-19 (NIV); James 2:14-17 (NIV); Deut. 15:7-11 (NIV); Isaiah 58 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 The Heart of Jesus

Caring for the poor, hurting, vulnerable, and forgotten is not a secondary issue to Jesus. It is central to His ministry.

- a. When you think about the compassion of Jesus, what stories or moments from His life come to mind?
- b. Why do you think Jesus so often moved toward people that others overlooked?

2 Seeing People Differently

Matthew 25 reminds us that when we serve those in need, we are serving Jesus Himself.

- a. How does it change the way we see people when we remember that Jesus identifies with the hungry, hurting, stranger, sick, and imprisoned?
- b. Who are the people in our community who have been overlooked?

3 Compassion That Moves

Biblical compassion is more than feeling bad for someone. It moves us toward people with love, humility, and action.

- a. What is the difference between feeling compassion and acting with compassion?
- b. What sometimes keeps us from moving toward people in need?

4 Rivers, Not Reservoirs

God blesses us not so we can hold everything for ourselves, but so His love can flow through us to others.

- a. What are some ways God has blessed you that could become a blessing to someone else?
- b. How can our acts of generosity shape the culture of our church family?

5

Caring Close to Home

Caring is not something we turn on to serve and off when we leave. It is ingrained in us, carried into everyday moments with neighbors, coworkers, family, and those God places before us.

- a. Where might God be inviting you to notice someone who needs care, encouragement, or support right now?
- b. What is one practical way you can carry the compassion of Jesus this week?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Caring is not just something we support, but it is something that we practice as followers of Jesus.

- Where have you recently noticed someone carrying a burden, need, or pain?
- Who might Jesus be inviting you to move toward with compassion this week?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This week, practice being on mission by:

- Ask God to help you see someone who might feel overlooked or forgotten.
- Meet one practical need this week through encouragement, generosity, prayer, service, or presence.
- Look for one way to serve through WOL, CityLink, your neighborhood, workplace, school, or family.

Ask the Holy Spirit to form the compassion of Jesus in you so we become people who move toward the poor, hurting, and forgotten.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

James 2:15-17 (NIV), *"Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."*

Let the group close by remembering that faith and compassion go hand and hand.

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WEEK 4: EQUIPPING

Teaching and releasing people for the purpose of ministry and health

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

This week focuses on **Formation** through the value of **Equipping**. Equipping is more than learning more information. It is being taught, trained, formed, and released to live as followers of Jesus in everyday life.

In Ephesians 4, Paul teaches that leaders are called to equip the saints for the work of ministry so the body of Christ can become mature, healthy, and built up in love. Ministry was never meant to be carried by pastors or staff alone. Pastors equip. Saints minister. The church grows when every person does their part.

At WOL, equipping means helping people become ministers of Jesus in their homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, schools, and ministry spaces. We are not just called to receive ministry. We are called to carry the life of Jesus into the places God has already placed us.

Jesus is forming us to be the kind of people who bring His life into our everyday places.

KEY VERSES

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIV)

Look up these additional verses:

Matthew 4:18-20 (NIV); 2 Timothy 2:2 (NIV); Matthew 20:28 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

More Than Information

Equipping is not just about knowing more. It is about becoming more like Jesus and learning to live out His calling.

- a. What is the difference between learning about Jesus and being formed by Jesus?
- b. Why do you think spiritual growth requires both teaching and practice?

2

Everyone Has a Part

Ephesians 4 shows us that ministry belongs to the whole body of Christ, not just a few leaders.

- a. How does it change the way we see church when we realize every believer has a part to play?
- b. Where have you seen someone use their gifts to encourage, strengthen, or serve others?

3

Equipped to Serve

God does not only want to work in us. He also wants to work through us in our everyday lives.

- a. Where might God already be giving you opportunities to serve, lead, encourage, or bless others in your everyday life?
- b. What is one way God may have already equipped you to bless someone else?

4

Everyday Ministry

Equipping helps us see our homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, schools, and church spaces as places where we serve Jesus.

- a. Where is one everyday place God has called you to represent Jesus?
- b. What would it look like to bring the life of Jesus into that place this week?

The goal of equipping is not just being busy. It is becoming mature, healthy, and loving as the body of Christ.

- a. What does a mature and loving church community look like to you?
- b. What is one step you can take this week to build someone else up?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Equipping is not just something we receive. It is something God uses to prepare us to serve others.

- Where have you been waiting for someone else to do what God may be asking you to step into?
- What gift, passion, experience, or lesson might Jesus want to use through you?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This Week Practicing Formation By:

- Ask God to show you one way He has already equipped you to serve others.
- Encourage, pray for, or help someone who needs to be strengthened this week.
- Take one step toward serving, leading, mentoring, helping, or using your gifts.

Ask the Holy Spirit to form you into someone who does not just receive ministry, but helps bring the life of Jesus into everyday places.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV), *"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."*

Let the group close by remembering that Jesus is forming His whole body together. As each person does their part, the church grows and builds itself up in love.

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WEEK 5: HEALING

Teaching and releasing people for the purpose of ministry and health

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

This week focuses on **Formation** through the value of **Healing**. Healing is central to the ministry of Jesus and to the formation of His people.

From the beginning, sin and shame have caused people to hide from God, from themselves, and from one another. But God does not leave His people hiding. He comes looking for us. He meets us with mercy, truth, grace, and restoration.

At WOL, healing has never been about pretending people are not broken. It is about believing Jesus meets us in our sin, shame, wounds, grief, bondage, and pain. He brings what is hidden into the light, not to condemn us, but to restore us.

Healing is not just a ministry or department. It is part of how we learn to live as sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father.

We are WOL when we become a community where people do not have to hide. Instead, we bring our shame, wounds, and brokenness into the light of Jesus and trust Him to meet us with mercy, healing, and restoration.

KEY VERSES

Genesis 3:8-10 (NIV)

Look up these additional verses:

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV) James 5:16 (NIV) Luke 4:18-19 (NIV) Isaiah 61 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 When We Hide

From the beginning, shame has caused people to hide from God, themselves, and others.

- a. Why do you think shame often makes people want to hide?
- b. What is the difference between hiding from God and bringing our real selves to Him?

2 God Comes Looking

In Genesis 3, God comes looking for Adam and Eve even after they sinned.

- a. What does this show us about the heart of God?
- b. How does it encourage you to know that God moves toward us even when we feel broken or ashamed?

3 Healing in Community

James 5 reminds us that confession, prayer, and community are part of God's healing work.

- a. Why can it be difficult to let trusted people know where we need healing?
- b. How can a healthy spiritual community help people experience freedom and restoration?

4 Comforted to Comfort Others

God does not waste our pain. He often uses the comfort we have received to help us comfort others.

- a. Where have you experienced God's comfort, help, or healing in your life?
- b. How might God use your story to encourage someone else?

A Healing People

Healing is not just something we receive. It becomes part of the culture we carry. Outcomes, but in God's promises.

- a. What would it look like for our group or church to be a safe place for honesty, prayer, and restoration?
- b. What is one step you can take this week to bring something into the light of Jesus?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Healing begins when we stop hiding and allow Jesus to meet us with truth, mercy, and grace.

- Where have you been tempted to hide pain, shame, fear, or brokenness?
- What might Jesus be inviting you to bring into His light this week?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This Week Practicing Formation By:

- Spend time honestly naming to God where you need His healing.
- Ask a trusted believer to pray with you about one area of your life.
- Look for one way to offer comfort, encouragement, or prayer to someone else.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live as someone who brings brokenness into the light of Jesus and helps others experience His mercy, freedom, and restoration.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV), *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*

Let the group close by remembering that God is the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort. The comfort He gives us is not meant to stop with us. He heals us and forms us into people who can bring His comfort to others.

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Prayer Requests

Note your prayer requests and fellow small group members' prayer requests here and pray for one another throughout the week.

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Volunteers at Water of Life Community Church.