

COOL

IS FOR YOU!

Small Group
HOST GUIDE



Small Group
HOST GUIDE



So many people believe that God is against them, that He has abandoned them, and that God doesn't care about them. For the same reason, I want to debunk those lies for the next six weeks and discover His truth through our study of God's word!

What does God say about you? About your family?
About your finances? About your future?

I pray during the next six weeks, you will get the revelation of how God is for you!

I love you, and I'm praying for you and your Small Group,

Pastor David Blunt

Small Group Report Example

- Gregory Smith
- Lashonda Martin
- Melinda Peterson
- Joe Brinks
- Miguel Hernandez
- Wanda Wright
- Jose Martinez
- Kenneth Peoples
- Jennifer Hershel

How did the small group go and do you have any questions?

-Joe messaged beforehand that he couldn't make it, but will be there next week!
-Melinda brought her friend Andy. It was his first time and he loved it! Plans to come back next week.
-Miguel started God is for you classes last week!
-We prayed for Lashonda's grandmother who has surgery on Friday.
-We shared with everyone about Eat Sweet Night!

Question: Our group shared in 2 weeks that majority can't make it on Tuesday, could we reschedule our group to Friday the 16th and have it at Red Robin?

SAVE

CANCEL



→ To eliminate confusion when managing your roster, we suggest to keep members pending until they show up to your group.

Session 1

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

GETTING STARTED

What are you hoping to get out of this study, God is for you?

FOCUS VERSE

³¹What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?
ROMANS 8:31 | KJV

GOD IS NOT ONLY FOR YOU, BUT ALSO FOR YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY, FINANCES, AND FUTURE.

PASTOR DAVID BLUNT

What I know and say determines how long I will stay in the season I am in.

What conditions do I need to meet for God to work on my behalf?

Love God and pursue His purpose for my life.

What should we be declaring to our circumstances?

- 1 Who we are in Christ.
- 2 What we have in Christ.
- 3 What we can do in Christ.

**IF GOD IS FOR US?
WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?**
ROMANS 8:31

What makes a difference in our life and sets us apart?

- 1 What we know sets us apart.
- 2 What we say sets us apart.
- 3 What we see sets us apart.

What does it mean to know God is for you?

When I understand God is for me and not against me, I will become **unstoppable, unbeatable, and undefeatable.**

RECAP

- 1 If God is for us, who can be against us?
- 2 The power of knowing, speaking, and seeing the truth sets us apart.
- 3 Key to overcoming obstacles is declaring God's favor in all circumstances.
- 4 Importance of what we know and speak.

1 What does it mean to understand that God is for you?

2 How does declaring and knowing who God is change your circumstances?

3 What are two things you can put into practice this week to know God more?

DIVING DEEPER

- 1 Read the focus verse, Romans 8:31 KJV, every day this week as part of your daily devotions. *Challenge yourself to have the verse memorized before your next Small Group meeting.*
- 2 Share with someone outside of your Small Group one thing that you learned this week.
- 3 Invite a friend to your next Small Group meeting.

Session 2

GETTING STARTED

What is one way you can share with others that God is for them?

FOCUS VERSE

³¹What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³²Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

ROMANS 8:31-32 | NLT

What does it mean to know that God is for you?

When I understand God is *for me* and not *against me*, I will become unstoppable, unbeatable, and undefeatable.

How do we change our perspective?

66 GOD HAS A PLAN AND A PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE.

- 1 Declaring who we are in Christ.
- 2 Declaring what we have in Christ.
- 3 Declaring what we can do in Christ.

66 WHAT YOU SAY IS IMPORTANT.

WORDS ARE CONTAINERS.
WORDS ARE POWERFUL.
DEATH AND LIFE IS IN THE
POWER OF THE TONGUE.

RECAP

- 1 Understand the significance of declarations and affirmations.
- 2 Harness the power of words to shape your life and future.
- 3 Build your faith, life, and your future through your words.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1 How are your words important?

2 How has God given you everything you need to fulfill His vision, destiny, and purpose for your life?

3 What can you do this week to overcome defeatist thoughts and replace with God's promises?

DIVING DEEPER

- 1 Every day this week meditate on Romans 8:31. Meditate - Think about the verse throughout your everyday life.
- 2 Subscribe to God is for You Experience with Pastor Blunt on YouTube. youtube.com/@godisforyouexperience
- 3 Prepare a list of affirmations based on God's promises you can use when you feel defeated.

Session 3

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

GETTING STARTED

What is a confession you've been saying this week?

FOCUS VERSE

³⁸Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself.
ROMANS 8:33 | NLT

* ACTION

Pray for God's revelation on how God is for me!

“ CONFESSION

"The Lord is my shepherd, and I will not lack."

How do we not give up?

- 1 Believe God chose us.
- 2 Believe God believes in us.
- 3 Believe we have the potential that God put in us.

“ GOD WILL FREELY GIVE ME EVERYTHING I NEED.

THE RESOURCES,
RELATIONSHIPS,
OPPORTUNITIES,
FAVOR,
PROVISION,
HEALTH,
STAMINA,
STABILITY,
ENDURANCE,
PATIENCE,
AND THE JOY.

RECAP

- 1 The enemy comes to accuse us.
- 2 The enemy comes to put us down.
- 3 The enemy comes to shift our focus on our failures, wrong decisions, and mistakes.

1 How do you know God will never give up on you?

2 What does Romans 8:32 mean to you?

3 What are ways you can shift your focus from failures to successes and from wrong decisions to making decisions based on God's word?

DIVING DEEPER

- 1 Reflect how God gives us everything we need.
- 2 Subscribe to God is for You Experience with Pastor Blunt on YouTube. youtube.com/@godisforyouexperience
- 3 Does anyone here want to commit or recommit their life to Christ today? If so, would you like to pray now?

Session 4

GETTING STARTED

Share one way that you have shifted your focus to God's word.

FOCUS VERSE

³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

ROMANS 8:35-37 | NKJV

The Power of Chosenness

Where God guides , God provides .

You will never know your identity until you have a revelation of God's love for you.

What does the Word say?

Whenever your face circumstances, don't react with your emotions or feelings but instead ask, what does the Word say?

It's *Not* Over!

It's not over because of what you know , what you are saying , and what you are seeing .

- RECAP**
- 1 Don't react with our emotions or feelings.
 - 2 The enemy comes to put us down.
 - 3 Don't let things get at us today. Instead, focus on our overwhelming victory that is ours through Christ who loves us.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- 1 How should we be responding to worry and doubt?

- 2 What does Romans 8:37 mean to you?

- 3 How does worrying steal your joy and victory over your circumstances?

DIVING DEEPER

- 1 Journal daily how God provided for you.
- 2 Subscribe to God is for You Experience with Pastor Blunt on YouTube. youtube.com/@godisforyouexperience
- 3 Invite people from your Small Group to sit together during a Sunday service.

Session 5

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

GETTING STARTED

What is something from last week's session that you have implemented in your life this week?

FOCUS VERSE

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

ROMANS 8:38 | NLT

Consequences of fear and worry:

“USUALLY, YOU'RE RIGHT IN THE WILL OF GOD WHEN EVERYTHING'S GOING WRONG.

- 1 There is an enemy out there that wants to stop us.
- 2 Worry and fear will rob us of our destiny, opportunities, creativity, and not being innovative.
- 3 Instead of excuses we're going to see what God wants done.

“CONFESSIO

“I have overwhelming victory.”

Your core beliefs determine how strong you will be.

- 1 God is for me.
- 2 God loves me.
- 3 God has a plan for my life.
- 4 With God I am more than a conqueror.

“YOU STAY FOCUSED WHEN YOU HAVE CLEAR CORE BELIEFS.

RECAP

- 1 See yourself as a victor, not a victim.
- 2 God doesn't want you to live in fear. He wants to help you overcome fear!
- 3 Having core beliefs make you stronger.
- 4 You make your decisions based out of your core beliefs.

1 What are some of your core beliefs for you and your family?

2 How do your core beliefs affect your decisions and choices?

3 What are some strategies that help you overcome fear?

DIVING DEEPER

1 Continue to read your One Year Bible every day.

2 Listen to Pastor Blunt's God is for You Experience YouTube episode "How to Stop Worrying and Start Living".

3 Read scriptures on overcoming fear and worry.

Session 6

GETTING STARTED

What is one of your core beliefs?

FOCUS VERSE

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ:

EPHESIANS 1:3 | KJV

“ CONFESSION

“I have everything I need to do what God has called me to do.”

What do I need to focus on?

- 1 Focus on what God has blessed us with according to His Word.
- 2 Focus on your relationship with God.
- 3 Focus on our identity in Christ and believe we are chosen and loved by God.

Don't let the pain of your past or people cause you to doubt God's love for you.

RECAP

- 1 Remember God's love even in moments of feeling unloved.
- 2 Everything flows out of our relationship with God.
- 3 Learn how to walk by faith and not by sight.

Thank you for leading a Small Group this semester!

Because of your sacrifice, our church is becoming stronger and stronger!

Together, we are helping lead people to a God who is for them, and help them discover His purpose for their life!

Always remember,

GOD IS FOR YOU!

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1 Why did God create us?

2 What is one thing you discovered through studying Romans 8:31?

3 Why is not leaning on your own understanding important?

DIVING DEEPER

- 1 Designate a special time each week to journal how God is for you!
- 2 Invite people from your Small Group to sit together during a Sunday service.
- 3 Does anyone here want to commit or recommit their life to Christ today? If so, would you like to pray now?

Ideas to Help People Grow

- Invite them to sit with you in a Sunday Service.
- Share your personal story and what God has been teaching you.
- Share how God is for you classes can help them grow and join a team.
- Invite them to check out the COTR Backstage podcast (backstage.cotr.org).
- Invite them to be water baptized (encourage your Small Group to be there).
- Share your spiritual habits; how you find time regularly to pray, worship, and read God's Word. Encourage them to make their own time with God.
- Invite them to come to special events at COTR.
- Tell them about our COTR Website, COTR App, and One Year Bible reading plan.
 - Watch past messages
 - Give
 - Stay connected
- If they are ready to receive Christ, offer to pray with them.
 - Ask God to forgive you of your sins (Romans 6:23, Romans 3:10, Titus 3:5-7)
 - Believe Jesus is God's Son and died for us (1 John 4:15, John 1:1,14, Romans 5:8)
 - Confess Jesus is Lord of your life (Matthew 10:32, Romans 10:9)
 - Declare that you are filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8)
- **Example Prayer:**
"Heavenly father, I repent. I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, He died for me and He rose again. Jesus, come into my heart. I receive you now as my Lord and my Savior. Fill me with the Holy Spirit. Take my life and make a difference. Amen."

Tips / Tools

- **When is childcare available?**
We have childcare available on campus on Saturday afternoons at 2pm and Sunday mornings during our 11am service.
- **Where can I host my Small Group?**
You can host online, at church, and off site. Some of the most common meeting places are homes, restaurants, parks, coffee shops, and office buildings.
- **What are things we avoid in Small Groups?**
 - Self-promotion
 - Take offerings
 - Unapproved materials or speakers
 - Controversial topics and politics
- **How to prepare for your group?**
 - Arrive early
 - Creating the right environment
 - Test and have video ready
 - Welcome everyone
 - Warm up the group with an ice breaker (Tell me about your week)
 - Discuss this week's questions
 - Ask for prayer requests
 - Pray
 - Encourage them to grow (look at ideas to help people grow)
- **What should I do if someone asks a question I can't answer?**
It's okay to not have all the answers. Thankfully, we can find guidance through prayer, God's Word, and the Holy Spirit. Encourage them to spend time reading the Bible and praying. Also, let them know that you will do your best to get some information and get back with them at your next Small Group meeting. Do some personal research and call your Coach to get advice.
- **Questions to ask yourself when your group attendance is inconsistent:**
 - Does the meeting day/time work for everybody?
 - Are you doing everything you can as a leader to help people engage outside the group?
 - Are you texting them?
 - Have you connected with them on a personal level? (Anniversary, birthdays, trips)
 - Have you asked members for feedback?
- **How do I get my group serving?**
Encourage your group to get plugged into the Dream Team, by leading the way, talking about it, and inviting them to start by attending God is for you classes.
- **What should I do if someone in my group shares something with me (or the group) that requires attention beyond what I (or we) can provide?**
If you encounter a difficult situation within your Small Group, please know that you are not alone. If a member is going through a crisis, you can rally the group around them to provide prayer and encouragement. Use wisdom and be sensitive to the situation. If you are unsure of what to do, don't hesitate to ask your Coach. Also, you and/or the group member can call the church office to the Small Groups Department at 636-294-7841 if needed.
- **Need a tip we didn't cover?**
Contact your Coach, they are there to serve you.

Small Group Host Expectations

General Expectations

- Complete God is for you classes
- Complete Background Check.
- Fill out Small Group online form (day, time, location).
- Attend and have your picture taken at the Small Group Training.
- Connect with your coach.
My coach's name:
My coach's contact info:
- Be open and honest with your group.
- Love your group well.
 - Pray for them
 - Lead them in discussion
 - Be full of grace
 - Invite members to attend every week
- Recruit members.
- Fill out your weekly report after each group meeting.
- Plan a party for the group's final meeting.
- Prioritize Sunday mornings (worship one, serve one).
- Contact those who signup, introduce yourself, and share with them what to expect.
- Follow 70/30 Rule (70% of the group should talk / 30% of leadership should talk).
- Keep discussion positive (avoid politics, divisive issues, and negative talk).
- Respect boundaries (men minister to men and ladies minister to ladies).
- Serve at Small Group Rally by connecting with people and inviting them to signup at cotr.org/groups for a Small Group.
- Stay up to date and connected to the culture by listening to the COTR Backstage podcast (backstage.cotr.org).

Zoom Expectations

- Make sure to have a computer or laptop (iPad or tablet will not work).
- Select a separate day with your coach or co-leader to test Zoom and Pastor's video.
- If you have trouble with your internet while playing the video from the website, use the special link to download the videos onto your computer.
- Arrive on Zoom 15 minutes before starting time.
- Make sure you have emailed and texted each person in your group the Zoom link.
- If your group is meeting over 40 minutes, we recommend you purchase a Zoom subscription (but not required).
- Make sure to keep your camera and on and facing you so your group can see you the entire time.
- Lead your group in a room that has good lighting where your group can see you.
- Encourage them if possible to put their camera on so you can see each other.

Onsite (at Church) Expectations

- Come early to prepare your room.
- Make sure lights are on in the room and everywhere your group will be (halls and areas near bathrooms).
- Leave the room as you found it (If you need to move chairs or tables, take a picture so you can put it back in the right spot).
- Take the trash out after your group finishes.
- Leave things better than you found them.
- Stay on time with your group (keep in mind that there could be a meeting right before or after your group).
- If something feels or looks wrong, please make a staff member aware immediately.
- Do not allow children to attend your group. Please utilize childcare (on Saturdays and Sundays).
- If an incident happens, please inform COTR staff member present and write up an incident report and also please contact your Small Group Coach immediately after your group.
- Avoid being alone with just one person at any time.

Offsite Expectations

- Must have enough parking at the site for the people to attend.
 - Make sure there's no object near the activity that can cause harm to anyone or cause any damage.
 - Keep your pets contained and away from people to avoid bites and/or allergic reactions.
 - The site must look like our church culture. House must be clean, no obscene pictures, or improper music.
 - Avoid being alone with just one person at any time.
 - Provide a private room for one person to change clothes (if needed for activity).
 - Do not allow children to attend unless you have childcare staff member and approval from church leadership.
 - If an incident happens, please write up an incident report and contact your Small Group Coach after your group.
- 