

The POWER *of*
POSITIVE
IMAGINATION

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SMALL GROUP

Host Guide

HELLO LEADER!

Your imagination is connected to God's best for you!

Thank you for saying yes to leading a small group this semester. Your yes, is leading people to a God who is for them and helping them discover His purpose for their life. We know that the most important things in life aren't things, they are relationships. By leading a small group you are facilitating a time for those relationships to grow.

For the next 6 weeks, we will be talking about the power of positive imagination. It's a powerful teaching that will have us using our imagination the way God intended it to be used!

Your imagination is connected to what God is able to do in your life, with your life, and through your life!

I pray this time together will be one of life change! That every person that attends your small group, will be impacted by the Holy Spirit, to imagine big and start dreaming God-sized dreams!

God is for you!

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.

LESSON 1



Our Imagination is a Gift from God!

MEMORY = RECALL | IMAGINATION = FUTURE

²⁰ Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]—

Ephesians 3:20 | AMP

Your imagination is connected to God's best for you!

GOD WANTS US TO DREAM AND DREAM BIG!

²⁰ I pray that Christ Jesus and the church will forever bring praise to God.

²¹ His power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21 | CEV

When we use our imagination for the right thing, it brings honor to God!

God wants our imagination to be sanctified.

⁶ And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Genesis 11:6 | KJV

GOD CAN'T DO ANY MORE THAN WHAT YOU CAN IMAGINE.

DISCUSSION

1 What are some thoughts you need to change from negative to positive?

2 What is holding you back from dreaming big?

3 How can we sanctify our imagination?

THIS WEEK

- 1** Every day take 5 minutes to dream. Imagine what your relationship with God will be like, your family, your future.
- 2** Invite a friend to join you next week at your Small Group.

LESSON 2



Your imagination is connected to what God is able to do in your life, with your life, and through your life!

QUESTION: *What are you imagining?*

The dominant images in our inside determine how we conduct our lives.

⁹*That is what the Scriptures mean when they say,
“No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
and no mind has imagined
what God has prepared
for those who love him.”*

1 Corinthians 2:9 | NLT

**GOD WORKS WITH OUR IMAGINATION!
Don't imagine the worst, imagine the best!**

¹⁰*But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit.
For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets.*

1 Corinthians 2:10 | NLT

THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALS GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE.

¹¹*No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit,
and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit.*

1 Corinthians 2:11 | NLT

GOD'S WAYS ARE BETTER THAN OUR WAYS!

¹²*And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know
the wonderful things God has freely given us.*

1 Corinthians 2:12 | NLT

**SPEND MORE TIME DREAMING ABOUT YOUR FUTURE
THAN TALKING ABOUT YOUR PAST!**

DISCUSSION

1 What have you been imagining?

2 What can you do when you start imagining the worst?

3 What is something new you learned from 1 Corinthians 2:9-12?

THIS WEEK

1 Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's plan for your life.

2 Replace the time you spend watching the news with time in God's Word.
Read the One Year Bible instead.

3 Invite another friend to Small Group next week.

LESSON 3



Words Create Images and Pictures

⁸This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Joshua 1:8 | KJV

What you are saying has a lot to do with what you are imagining.

What you are saying determines the trajectory of your life!

Meditate = personalize what you are reading, memorize it, and visualize what you are reading.

Visit your future every day with your imagination.

MY WAY, MY FUTURE AND THE OUTCOME ARE CONNECTED TO MY IMAGINATION.

Renew your mind with the Word of God!

⁸This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success.

Joshua 1:8 | AMP

IMAGINATION GIVES INSPIRATION.

Let the Word of God feed your imagination.

DISCUSSION

1 Who do you want to become?

2 How can our confession change from negative to positive?

3 How can we renew our mind?

THIS WEEK

- 1 Daily, find a new promise in the Word of God, and confess it throughout the day.
- 2 Make a list of who you want to become.
- 3 Make it a habit to visit your future daily. Set a time and place to do this.

LESSON 4



Two Sets of Eyes

³⁴ And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

³⁵ And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed:

³⁶ Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat.

³⁷ He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?

³⁸ He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes.

³⁹ And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass.

⁴⁰ And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties.

⁴¹ And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all.

⁴² And they did all eat, and were filled.

⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes.

⁴⁴ And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men.

Mark 6:34-44 | KJV

Don't walk by what you see in the natural, but in the spiritual.

God works with our imagination.

DISCUSSION

1 How can we grow our spiritual eyesight?

2 What are things we can do to let God work with our imagination?

3 What did you takeaway from Mark 6:34-44?

THIS WEEK

1 Pray for new experiences, events in your life, and revelation in your life.

2 Remember a BUT GOD story in your life. A time where things in the natural looked bad BUT GOD turned it around. Let this time fill with you hope and fuel your imagination.

3 Share with a friend what you have learned so far in your Small Group and invite them to Church this weekend.

LESSON 5



**Holy Spirit is the Artist,
the Word of God is the Oil,
and your Heart is the Canvas.**

**WHEN YOU ARE
Being Spirit Filled
Being Word Filled**

*Then they feed your
imagination and give
you power in the present.*

⁹That is what the Scriptures mean when they say,
“No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
and no mind has imagined
what God has prepared
for those who love him.”

1 Corinthians 2:9 | NLT

**HOW BIG IS YOUR GOD AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING
TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF YOUR GOD?**

Imagine what God can do with you, your family, and your life!

**Don't let the devil sabotage your future with small thinking.
Imagine BIG!**

DISCUSSION

1 How have these teachings impacted your imagination?

2 Have there been moments this week where you have identified negative imagination? Did you do anything about it? If you did, how did you remove that “stinking thinking”?

3 How can we allow the Holy Spirit to lead our imagination?

THIS WEEK

- 1** If you haven't been water baptized and you would like to, sign up today!
cotr.org/baptism
- 2** Build your prayer language by praying in it every day.
- 3** Every day, pause, and look at the size of your God by focusing on His character.

LESSON 6



Create a Dream Board

Without a vision you perish.

God cannot do more than what we can imagine.

A Dream Board helps us visit our future every day!

WAYS WE CAN ENLARGE OUR IMAGINATION:

- 1 By reading the word of God every day – One Year Bible
- 2 Through the Holy Spirit
- 3 Through experiences
- 4 Through the right events
- 5 Surrounded by the right people
- 6 Through prayer
- 7 Fellowship with God

¹⁴And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

¹⁵For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

¹⁶And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

¹⁷Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

Genesis 13:14-17 | KJV

Don't give up on your dreams. Focus on your future with your positive imagination!

DISCUSSION

1 What resources do you use to create a Dream Board?

2 What are some things you want to add to your Dream Board?

3 With the tools Pastor Blunt mentioned, which tool will you be intentional to use to enlarge your imagination?

THIS WEEK

- 1 Work on your Dream Board.
- 2 Continue to visit your future daily.
- 3 Reach out to a new friend you have made in your Small Group and ask them how their Dream Board is going.

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 encourage them to 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 humanity (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 sign up, 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 sign up 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 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.