

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

NOVEMBER 11, 2018

**Welcome** to yet another Sunday set aside to allow Communities and/or small groups to meet.

Material for the small groups this month is based on the general themes addressed in the sermons: “surprising” or “odd” Bible stories (November 4-25). This is the theme the youth at “Impact” are studying as well. While the sermons provide some back-ground information and help to inform the conversation, one does not necessarily have to listen to the sermons in order to participate in the small groups. Leading a small group will take some work and creativity on the part of the group leaders...

For different study material suggestions or for different approaches to small groups please refer to the September 16, 2018 material as found under the “Communities” tab on the church website.

*(Note: sermons can be accessed online at [ccrc.on.ca/sermons](http://ccrc.on.ca/sermons))*

- I. Some ideas for beginning your time together:** Please be sure that you begin your time together well. It is important that people know one another and are comfortable being together. Some ice-breaker, or reflection on the weeks gone by may help to set the stage for a time together. Be vulnerable. For ideas you can look back at the other guides that precede this one on the Communities page on the website [www.ccrcc.on.ca](http://www.ccrcc.on.ca).

As you begin you may want to take the opportunity to spend some time in prayer thanking the Lord for the past week and for the things experienced. People of all ages can be involved in circle prayer.

- II. Discussion Theme Introduction:** surprising and challenging stories from Scripture. For the month of November the sermons deal with the story from Exodus 4 (God wants to kill Moses), Acts 4 (God actually kills Ananias and Sapphira), II Kings 2 (the death of 40+ children after their taunt of Elisha), Revelation 19 (Christ on the white horse). These are but four perplexing stories in the Bible. Below you will find 2 discussion guides. Pick either one or both or pieces of both.

**III. Discussion Guide – based on Pastor Betsy’s sermon – November 4.**

1. **Share:** What story in the Bible do you find perplexing or “strange” or “challenging”. Tell the story and tell why you find it “strange”.
2. **Scripture Reading: Exodus 4**
  - a. Tell the story in your own words?
  - b. What strikes you about these verses – what is the “perplexing” part of this story?
  - c. What did God call Moses to do?
  - d. Why did God want to put Moses to death? What does this show us about God’s character?
  - e. What role does the covenant between God and his people play in this story? What had Moses done wrong? Why was this so serious?
  - f. Who saved Moses? How? What does her statement about the “bridegroom of blood” mean?

- g. **Reflect:** *“The rite of circumcision was the foremost symbol of Israel's relationship to God (Gen. 17:9-14). Involving the shedding of blood, it ultimately pointed to the shedding of the blood of the most innocent Son. But He did not merely bleed a few drops; His very life was bled away. And His death is memorialized in the Lord's Supper by the cup, a symbol of blood.”* Ronald B. Allen - BIBLIOTHECA SACRA
- h. What is the significance of this story? What message did this passage of Scripture send to the original audience?
- i. What does a passage such as Exodus 24 and the saving of Moses' life say to us in 2018? Does this passage have any significance for us today?

#### IV. Discussion Guide – based on Pastor Cecil's sermon – November 11.

1. **Storytelling:** Since today is also Remembrance Day and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the armistice to end World War I, why not spend a few minutes and go around the circle telling stories of what Remembrance Day brings to mind for each one present. Can anyone tell a “war story”? Once the stories are told spend some time in prayer asking that the Prince of Peace might return soon to bring peace on this earth.
2. **Share:** What story in the Bible do you find perplexing or “strange” or “challenging”. Tell the story and tell why you find it “strange”.
3. **Read: Acts 4:32 – 5:11**
  - a. Tell the story in your own words?
  - b. What strikes you about these verses – what is the “perplexing” part of this story?
  - c. Pastor Cecil entitled his sermon “Genuine Hypocrisy”. Explain what that means and how it fits with the story.
  - d. How does the story of Barnabas fit into the whole event?
  - e. What was Ananias and Sapphira's sin?
  - f. Look up some other stories in the Bible of people who were struck dead by the Lord. (See: Leviticus 10:1-3; Numbers 16:1-35; II Samuel 6:3-8). What seemingly trivial sins did these people commit? What was their punishment? Why was their punishment so severe?
  - g. Why did God strike Ananias and Sapphira dead? What does this show us about God's character?
  - h. What is the significance of this story? What message did this passage of Scripture send to the original audience? What was the early church's reaction to the events of this story? Do you believe that there is a “fear” of God in the church today?
  - i. What does this passage say about the nature of a community? For example, can the lies or negative things we do have effects on other people? Can you give any examples?

#### V. Closing time: Take some time to pray together.