

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments, as you feel necessary, to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Love Your Enemies – April 19, 2026

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
- Was Sunday’s sermon more encouraging or convicting? Explain your answer.

3 Points

- **Do not be anxious about your life**
- **Do not be anxious like the Gentiles**
- **Do not be anxious about tomorrow**

I. Do not be anxious about your life

- **Read and discuss** Matthew 6:25-30.
- Last week we looked at the command “Do not be anxious about your life.” Quickly review the four reasons Jesus gives us not to worry (from your notes). Which of these four reasons speaks to you most right now, and why?
 - **Leader’s Cheat:**
 - Life is more than food/clothing
 - God cares for us more than the birds
 - Worry accomplishes nothing
 - Anxiety reveals little faith
- Jesus uses “the birds of the air” and “the lilies of the field” as examples.
 - What do these illustrations teach us about God’s care?
 - Why does Jesus say we are “of more value” than birds, and how should that truth affect our anxiety?

- Verse 27 says worry cannot add even one hour to our life. In what ways have you seen worry actually harm (rather than help) your physical, emotional, or spiritual health?

II. Do not be anxious like the Gentiles

- **Read and discuss** Matthew 6:31-33.
- Jesus contrasts the anxiety of the Gentiles (pagans) with the confidence Christians can have.
 - How did the pagans try to get their “gods” to provide for them?
 - Why does their anxiety make sense for them, but not for us Christians?
- Jesus says, “Your Heavenly Father knows that you need them all” (v. 32).
 - How does remembering that God is our Father (not a distant or demonic idol) change the way we approach our daily needs?
 - What does it look like practically to “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness”?
- **Read and discuss** Philippians 4:6-7.
 - Paul says “do not be anxious about anything.” How is that even possible in a dangerous, uncertain world?
 - What role do prayer + thanksgiving play in replacing anxiety with God’s peace?

III. Do not be anxious about tomorrow

- **Read and discuss** Matthew 6:34.
- Jesus says, “Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”
 - What is the difference between wise planning for the future and anxious worrying about the future?
 - How can we plan responsibly while still obeying this command?

- The sermon emphasized that the foundation of our faith is God's faithfulness, rather than our own. In your personal walk, do you tend to focus more on your own performance or on the character of God? Explain your answer.
- **Read and discuss** Lamentations 3:22-23. How does God's faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22-23 and "Great Is Thy Faithfulness") give us freedom from anxiety about the future?
- Share a time when you saw God's faithfulness provide for you in a way you didn't expect.

Application

- Which area of anxiety is the Holy Spirit convicting you about most this week (your life/needs, worrying like the Gentiles, or anxiety about tomorrow)?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to "cast your anxieties on Him" (1 Peter 5:7) and seek first the kingdom?

Final Prayer

- *O Lord, what you say is true. Your care for me is greater than all the care that I can take for myself. For he stands but very unsafely, who casts not all his care upon you. O Lord, if only my will may remain right and firm toward you, do with me whatever shall please you. For it cannot be anything but good, whatsoever you shall do with me. - Thomas a Kempis*

Announcements:

Taco Fundraiser for Mexico Trip

5/2 | 6pm | Chapel

Tacos, get your tacos! The Mexico Missions Awareness Team is having a taco fundraiser to help offset costs of the trip this summer. We have about 15 people planning to go to Mexico this summer with Radius Serve. During the trip, parents and students will be helping to build casitas for families in need who live in and around Tijuana. We title this trip a Missions Awareness trip because participants are being taught about global cross-cultural work from missionaries and teachers from Radius International in the mornings and a few of the evenings. *Please order tacos online!* If you're not able to attend but would like to contribute, please click the "Keep the Tacos" button to donate

