



GRACE GROUP LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE

Leader note: This Message Guide is intended to help you facilitate discussion with your Grace Group. You can use the guide exactly as it is, ignore some of it, or add to it. We hope you view this guide as a flexible teaching tool, and not a rigid teaching task.

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12TH (HURT HAPPENS - WEEK 1)

- Please make sure to keep your roster up to date in YourGraceChurch. This is very helpful for your groups teams.
- Know that your campus groups teams are praying for you and your group to be healthy and growing toward Jesus-centered living.

ICEBREAKER

- If this is your first week, please take time to get to know each other. Ask each person to introduce themselves, where they grew up, what they do for work, how long they've been at Grace, have they been in groups before, what is their family make-up, etc.

WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR JAKE MCCULLOUGH

HURT HAPPENS (SCRIPTURE: PSALM 86)

1. How do you feel when you think about sharing your hurt?
2. From Psalm 86; pick out the adjectives that David describes God with. (*good, forgiving, abounding in steadfast love, great, merciful, gracious, slow to anger, faithful and strong*)
3. Now pick out what David calls himself. (*poor, needy, godly, servant*)
4. Now pick out what David wants God to do. (*incline your ear, answer me, preserve my life, save your servant, be gracious to me, gladden the soul of your servant, give ear, listen to my plea, answer me, teach me your way, unite my heart to fear your name, turn to me, give me your strength, save me and show me favor*)
5. The Bible tells us that we will have hurts and sufferings in life. How have hurts and pain shaped your story? How has that affected how you view God, others and the world?
6. Have you ever felt like your enemies (whoever they are) are winning and why?
7. Why do you think we hide our hurts?
8. What will it take for us to address and advance past what we won't admit?
9. How could you get specific describing your hurts, so that you can gain perspective?
10. David realized where his strength would come from to deal with his hurts. Do we? And, what do we do about it?

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to name a specific hurt you have.

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

Guided prayer example. The model is simple: the leader explains to the group that everyone will fill in the blank of a sentence prayer. This keeps the prayers simple and allows everyone to talk. Plus, it's a great way to connect prayer to your study topic. For instance, if you've just done a study on hurt, guide the group with "God, I please give me strength to deal with _____."

Grace Group First Night Discussion Notes

Group Participant Commitments:

In order to make Group a meaningful experience here at Grace Fellowship, we ask every group member to agree to a few things:

- Maintain the confidentiality of what people share in the group and not share it with others outside the group.
- Listen well to others and respect what they have to say. Be honest and authentic with others in the group. Please speak up and share your experiences, thoughts and encouragement to others.
- If conflict within the group arises, resolve it biblically (Matthew 18:15-18).
- Make group attendance a priority by being there every time possible. We're better together and your participation will help others.
- Maintain a desire to grow spiritually and be willing to engage in conversations. Please do any reading assignments and attend the weekend services so you are familiar with the content of the discussions (when we're using the Message Guide).
- Agree to take small weekly action steps to progress in faith.
- Agree to pray for your leaders and the members of your group.

Group Needs:

- Every group needs an Apprentice Leader. This is a person or couple that has the gifts of leading as well as a true desire to grow in leadership under the direction of the Group Leader in order to at some point lead their own group.
- Every group needs a group Administrator. This is a person who will take attendance, communicate with group members, and generally make sure that every group member knows what is expected and when. Sometimes this is the Leader but doesn't have to be.
- Many groups need a Childcare Coordinator. This is a person who makes sure that there's adequate childcare workers for your group and that they get paid appropriately.
- Every group needs an Impact Coordinator. This will be a person who coordinates the group's participation in Impact Week.
- Most groups need a Snack Coordinator. This is a person who will make sure the snack sign-up sheet is filled and makes sure everyone knows what kind of snack is expected.
- Each group needs a Care Coordinator. This is a person who pays attention to the care needs of the group and make sure those needs are met.

Group Goals:

- The overall goal of Groups is to move people's spiritual maturity forward. This must include efforts on both the part of group leader and the group participant.
- One of the overall goals in group life is that all group members are Partners. Information on Partnership at Grace can be found at www.gracefellowship.cc/partnership.
- Another goal of the church is that each group member serves in the church in some capacity. Volunteer opportunities can be found at www.gracefellowship.cc/volunteer.
- It is a goal that within 1.5 to 3 years, every group will multiply into two groups. Therefore, groups need to have an apprentice or apprentice couple. The overall numerical goal of group life at Grace is to have 70% of adults who worship at Grace to be in a group.