



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 5TH (GRACE AND TRUTH - WEEK 1)

- Likely many groups have added people and some people have changed to other groups. 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

- 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, what is their family make-up, etc.
- What was the best thing about this past summer?

WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR JEREMIAH

GRACE AND TRUTH (SCRIPTURE: John 1:14)

1. What is grace? What is truth?
2. Imagine a God of only grace. What problems do you see with trying to worship, serve, follow, and be transformed by that God?
3. Now imagine a God of only truth and answer the same question.
4. It was said in the weekend message that full grace and full truth equals Jesus. How was he able to be both.
5. Think back to a time in your life where you would say God dealt with you or you experienced him personally. How did you see grace in that? How did you see truth in that?
6. What's your bent? Are you a grace-inclined person or a truth-inclined person? How does that inclination show up in life and relationships?
7. Have you ever caused or felt damage on the extreme end of that inclination? (grace without truth, or truth without grace)?
8. How might that have worked out differently if both grace and truth had been present?

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to "admit your bias and lean into the other." What's a situation you're in right now where grace and truth are needed? How can you "lean into the other" in that situation in the days ahead?

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

As the group season begins, please do all you can to learn about your group members, what makes them tick, where are they in their faith journey, what is their background, what is their family makeup? As we learn who our people are, we are better equipped to minister to them and help them along in their journey. Please make sure your group members are covered in prayer. This is one of the most important aspects of group health.

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.