



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 OCTOBER 10TH

Please review the Updates and Leader Information found on the Group Resources page gracefellowship.cc/groupresources. You will find some new information there that you'll want to be aware of.

ICEBREAKER

If you've ever had a nickname? What was it and how did you get it?

WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR DAN CASE

LIVING IN BABYLON - WEEK 1 (Scripture: Daniel 1)

1. Read Daniel chapter 1. How was the king of Babylon intending to convert the young Israelite men to become loyal to him?
2. What did you notice about HOW Daniel responded to the king's food and wine?
3. How did Daniel think that only eating vegetables would prove his point?
4. In your own words what does it mean for us to be "living in Babylon"? Where is your Babylon?
5. Explain the difference between wanting a more Christian nation, or wanting more Christians? (Mark 16:15-16, Philemon 1:6, Matthew 4:19-20, Psalm 96:2-4)
6. How have you made specific choices to positively affect your Christian witness in the circles you travel?
7. Read Daniel 1:8 again. What have you resolved to have as absolutes in your life? (Mark 12:28-30, Mark 12:31, 2 Timothy 2:22-25, James 5:2, Luke 6:38, James 4:11-12)
8. Is resolving to follow God no matter what, one big decision, or many little ones? Explain.
9. How hard is it to replace bad habits with good ones? How do you do it?
10. What did you personally take away from the story of Daniel?
11. Share a time in your life when you had to make a decision based on your principles. How did it turn out?
12. When you think of fully fighting for God, what motivates you or demotivates you? (2 Timothy 4:7, 1 Timothy 6:12, James 1:2, 1 Corinthians 15:58, 2 Peter 1:5-7)
13. Read Matthew 4:1-11, 26:39, 27:14. Explain how Jesus modeled resolve to do the will of the Father in the most crucial times. Which of those ways most resonates with you?

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to *decide* and *discuss* how you will honor God in all things.

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

Good shepherds lead sacrificially. There will be times when leading your group will be a sacrifice. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). While your sacrifices will probably not involve laying your life

down for someone, but that sacrifice of time and effort will lead to a group that bonds through consistency. by Chris Surratt