



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 FEBRUARY 6th

Please review the Updates and Leader Information found at gracefellowship.cc/groupresources.

ICEBREAKER

If you could eat as much as you wanted of any particular food, with no financial or health consequences, what would it be?

WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR KEVIN KELLOGG

RECALIBRATE - WEEK 1 (Scripture: Proverbs 4:20-27)

1. Read Proverbs 4:20-27. Why do you think this scripture connects the heart with the mouth, eyes and feet?
2. Without saying directly, this passage describes both wisdom and folly. Pick out the phrases that speak to each.
3. Describe a season in your life when you realized that your focus was misguided?
4. Have you ever been laser focused on a certain thing, only to drift away from it later? Describe that.
5. It was said in the weekend message that we should periodically recognize, evaluate, adjust and do (READ). Which parts of this process do you think would be the easiest or hardest for you and why?
6. Why do you think we should pay attention to these Proverbs written some 2600-3000 years ago? (*Because God created humankind and his words to us speak to human behavior which doesn't change. Our best life is lived by following his instructions.*)
7. Often we hear the phrase "guard your heart" and think about our relationships to others, like a mechanism to not get hurt by others. However, in vs. 23, God means something else. What is that?
8. Why must we go through this READ process with urgency and vigilance?
9. Can you describe what's in your heart? Is there a priority list?
10. Clearly this week's message is to make God and our relationship to him the center of our hearts, and all healthy things flow from that. But, if we recognize that he isn't, how do we go about adjusting to fix it?

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to memorize Proverbs 4:23.

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

One of the main purposes of groups is to develop mature people who follow Christ more obediently. That's why group leaders need to learn the skill of helping their people identify

"next steps." Below, is a practical, three-step game plan that will help encourage your group members to move forward in spiritual maturity. Note: The following steps should be applied at both the individual and group levels.

Step 1: Clarify Winning

The first step is to think about where we ultimately want our people to be, spiritually. We must lead with the end in mind. Think about things like: priorities, serving, giving, obedience, Partnership, baptism, faith-sharing, Bible reading, prayer, forgiveness and more.

Step 2: Where Are They Now?

Next, evaluate the current status of your group, and each individual in the group. This helps you determine how far you are from where you want to be, and sets you up for the next steps necessary to keep moving in that direction.

Step 3: What Is The Next Step?

The final step is to ask your group members, "What steps will we take to get to where we want to be?" In other words, "What's next for you?" This question helps you keep your group on track toward winning. Helping your group members to take small steps toward the goals will add up to significant life transformation.

(Adapted from Encouraging "Next Steps" for Your Group Members, Setting a goal for spiritual maturity and a realistic pace for spiritual growth, Tony Escobar. Smallgroups.com)