



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 APRIL 10th

- **Easter** is coming soon, so who are you and your group members **inviting**? Please make this a topic of discussion during your group time. Maybe in your prayer time? **Pray** for those persons your group members are inviting.
- **Baptism** will happen in worship on Thursday, 5/5 (Pick only) and Sunday, 5/8. Please announce this to your group. More info and rsvp at gracefellowship.cc/baptism.
- One of the values of our church is “We are *For* Our Communities.” Which means that we believe that serving those in our community is important. Not only because we want the church to get a good reputation, but because there are hurting people and people in need in our communities. Are you planning a **community service** project? Probably should soon. Remember that the expectation is that groups do at least one community service project or effort in each semester.

ICEBREAKER

Have you ever won anything in a contest or competition? Please share.

TAKE TIME TO DISCUSS WHO YOU ARE INVITING TO EASTER SERVICE

What are their names? Pray for them as a group to show up and engage.

WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY DANIEL RENNER

LIFE CHANGE - WEEK 3 - “PROMISE KEEPER” (Scripture: Genesis 12:1-5)

1. Has anyone ever broken a promise to you? If so, how did that make you feel? How did that change your thoughts about that person after that?
2. Have you ever broken a promise to someone else? And if so, what did that do to your relationship?
3. Read Genesis 12:1-5. God gives Abram some very direct commands. What do you make of their unconditional nature?
4. Any thoughts on why God chose Abram to become Abraham and the father of God's chosen people? (*fyi, this is unknowable as the scriptures don't tell us why God chose him.*)
5. What are your thoughts about God choosing us to do some things for his Kingdom purposes?
6. If there is one, describe a time when you made a significant, personal sacrifice in response to God's directive.
7. From your own experiences, how do you know that God keeps his promises?

8. Read Psalm 37:25, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Thessalonians 3:3, 1 Peter 4:19, 1 John 1:9, 1 Thessalonians 5:24, and 2 Timothy 2:13. Do you have any doubts that God was, is and always will be faithful to his children?
9. Are you one of his children? Have you believed in Jesus as Lord and Savior?

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to take communion and remember all the promises of God and that he has been faithful.

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

Many of our group members are dealing with anxiety, depression, over scheduled lives, and other challenges of life like marriage, health and parenting. As the weather gets warmer, encourage your group members to connect with God through nature. Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness, sat beside a lake, or went up on a mountainside to be with His father and find rest for his soul. Spending time in nature can remind us of God's creativity, his power, and his plan to always take care of us. Suggest that your group members try one of the following to connect with God and find peace this week.

- Have a quiet time/read your bible outside.
- Take a walk while you pray, listen to a podcast, or listen to praise & worship music.
- Go out in nature somewhere that you can experience some of the fruits of the Spirit... woods, mountains, beach, garden, lake, or even a local park.
- Sit on a porch, talk to God and listen. Listen to the sounds of nature, and listen to God.
- Visit a farmer's market and experience some of the good that God provides from nature.
- Do some bird or animal watching (at home or at a park, nature center or zoo) and see what spiritual lessons you can learn from observing.
- Do some gardening and reflect on how that process has spiritual similarities.
- Watch a sunrise or sunset. Psalm 19:1
- Do some outdoor exercise while reflecting on God.
- Do some sunbathing and imagine the warmth of the sun as the warmth of God's love surrounding and covering you.
- Read about nature in the bible. Psalm 104:1-35 speaks of the great variety of things God has created and the roles that nature plays in our everyday life. Being in nature has been clinically proven to reduce blood pressure, reduce stress hormones like cortisol and calm your nervous system. It will also improve your mood with feel good hormones like endorphins and strengthen your immune system. Nature is beneficial for your physical, mental and spiritual health.
- This is a great YouTube channel for peaceful calming nature videos. <https://www.youtube.com/c/NatureHealingSociety/featured>

Excerpt from *Connect With God Through Nature* by Tracy Robbins; <https://www.happyhealthyandprosperous.com/connect-with-god-through-nature/>