



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 24th

- Please review the group leader announcements on the group resources page. There are a few things listed there that you'll want to know.

ICEBREAKER

What is your favorite summer treat? (ice cream, lemon ice, snow cones, popsicles, root beer floats, ice cream sandwiches, funnel cakes, key lime pie?)

WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR KEVIN KELLOGG

FOR - CHILDREN (Scripture: Luke 18:15-17, Matthew 18:5-6)

1. Before you were fully engaged in your faith, what was your perception of Jesus?
2. Describe the things in our culture that people think that Jesus is against?
3. What's a topic or two that the world or our American culture has distorted when it comes to what Jesus is for?
4. What place do children have in your life? Whether your own, nieces, nephews, friend's kids, etc. - how do you treat them?
5. Why do you think children are a burden?
6. Why do you think children are a blessing?
7. Read Luke 18:15-17, Matthew 18:5-6. Why do you think the disciples rebuked the little children from interacting with Jesus? *(The disciples felt that Jesus had more important things to do than dealing with little children. The disciples were looking for Jesus to enter Jerusalem and set up the Messianic kingdom immediately. They felt that he did not have time to deal with trivial things like children. Also, the disciples were indifferent to the need. They were looking to enter the kingdom, but not to work in the field. They were so caught up with the prospect of reigning with Christ in Jerusalem they could not be bothered.)*
8. Read these verses and discuss the importance of children to Jesus: John 4:46-52, Mark 7:24-30, Luke 8:40-56, Matthew 18:2-4.
9. What do you think Jesus meant when he said in verse 16 that "the kingdom of God belongs to such as these"? *(just like adults, they are created in God's image, loved by God and and fully invited into the blessings of the Gospel message and implications.)*
10. What do you think it means to have a childlike faith? *(pure, unassuming, humble, without pretension or hypocrisy, belief that is unswerving)*

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to answer the question; "How are you helping children connect to Jesus."

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

One thing to think about as the group leader is the group members you started the semester with. Are they still with you? Did they drift away? Have you chased after them to try to keep them connected? Did they join another group? Have you prayed for them, even if they haven't been around much?