



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 2ND

Please review the group leader announcements on the group resources page (www.gracefellowship.cc/groupresources). There are new resources listed, and a new calendar.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

What is one tv commercial you have seen in the past that you really enjoyed?

WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR JEREMIAH OLSON

NOT COMING DOWN - THE PROJECT (Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10)

1. Did your family growing up have family meetings? If so, what were they like?
2. How important do you think it is to know why you do something? Check out this clip from comedian Michael Jr on knowing our why; <https://youtu.be/1ytFB8TrkTo>
3. What do you believe is the why behind what we do as a church? In other words, what is the reason we do what we do?
4. Where in scripture do we find our why as Christians? (*1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 2:42, 1 Peter 3:15, James 1:27*)
5. Are you on board with that?
6. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10 from several different Bible translations in your group. Why does Paul thank God for these Thessalonian believers?
7. What does it mean to be an imitator of the Lord?
8. Verse 8 says, "The Lord's message rang out from you" or in a different translation "the word of the Lord sounded forth from you." What do you think this means?
9. And, what does it mean for us as individuals? And, us as a church body?
10. Explain how you would connect the new building project to Jesus.
11. For the Pickerington, South and Chapel groups, please take some time to discuss the upcoming project. What does that project mean for you and your family?

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to commit to the building project at the Pickerington Campus.

ADDITIONAL RELATED SCRIPTURES

Romans 1:8

Ephesians 5:20

Romans 10:18

2 Thessalonians 3:1

Romans 16:19

2 Thessalonians 1:4

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

The Apostle Paul often found himself having to write to groups of new Christians and provided them with a number of helpful hints. These helpful hints can be put to good use within your Grace group and can be summarized as follows:

1. Each member of the group needs to accept every other member without judgement and criticism.
2. Members must encourage and exhort one another. This includes comforting and getting alongside each member so that they feel that there is someone who understands and cares for them. It also includes encouraging others to get on and do what God is calling them to do.
3. Be patient with one another and be quick to forgive each other.
4. We must serve one another in love, taking on another's burdens.
5. Caring requires us to be humble – we need to value others above ourselves. We need to have servant hearts. As someone once said: "Humility is the soil in which the harvest of love can grow."
6. We need to always greet each other with warm affection.

(adapted from <https://storage.cloversites.com>, pdf titled "Developing the Caring Ministry within your small group")

WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR GROUP MEMBER'S FAITH JOURNEY?

SOME EXAMPLES:

- Start reading their Bible daily
- Start praying regularly
- Get baptized (<https://www.gracefellowship.cc/baptism>)
- Make a move toward holiness
- Become a Partner with Grace (<https://www.gracefellowship.cc/partnership>)
- Start serving on a ministry team (<https://www.gracefellowship.cc/volunteer>)
- If they're already serving, move to lead a serving team
- Make an effort to disciple someone else
- Take some ownership of group life (lead prayer, plan an outreach event, etc)
- Become an apprentice group leader
- Pray out loud in the group setting
- Take a mission trip (<https://www.gracefellowship.cc/global-impact>)
- Share faith with someone else
- Invite someone to join your group
- Invite someone to attend church
- Give to the church for the first time
- Start tithing, or increase giving toward tithing
- Engage a person to be a spiritual mentor