



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 SEPTEMBER 11th

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

What's the best thing you did this past summer? Or, what was the worst?

FIRST MEETING DISCUSSION

1. Have fun! Make the first meeting memorable for people such that they want to come back.
2. Get to know one another. Ask group members questions to allow relationships to start. This may take some time and that's ok. You may not get much of the lesson done on the first night.
3. Review the *First Night Discussion Notes* (found on the resource page), or review some of the group expectations and commitments.

WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR JEREMY PIEHLER

ACHILLES HEEL - A STUDENT OF HISTORY (Scripture: Proverbs 27:12, 1 Corinthians 10:6-12)

4. Are you a history buff? If so, what's your favorite type of history?
5. Do you think about your past much?
6. Read this week's scriptures. In Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church, he's pointing out here that the Israelites didn't learn from God's instructions and were harshly dealt with. He's saying that they should learn from the mistakes of the past in order to not make the same ones. What thoughts do these warnings provoke for you?
7. What were some of the mistakes the Israelites made, not only from these passages, but from other Old Testament passages?
8. What's a mistake from your past that you have learned from?
9. There are many predictable **events** in our lives. Our **response** to those predictable events can affect the **outcome** in a positive or negative way. What's a predictable event in your life that you wish you would respond to in a more God-honoring way? *(leader note; remember our discussion about E+R=O? This will be sprinkled into the message guides as we move throughout the group season.)*
10. It was said in the weekend message to be a student of your own history and the history of others. How can you learn from your past?
11. Have you allowed Jesus to forgive our past?
12. Do you realize you have a future powered by your faith in Christ?

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to look at your past in order to learn from it and avoid mistakes.

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

An important part of group life is caring for your group members. This is not only in their time of need, but in the normal everyday struggles of life, people want to know that you are there for them. This may include setting reminders in your phone to send a text, scheduling a time to go have coffee, writing a card, or taking them a meal. If you don't feel gifted in your ability to care for people well, find someone in your group who would love to serve the group in this way. The old saying is true, "they may not remember what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel."