



# 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 25th**

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

## **ICEBREAKER QUESTION**

Would you rather travel back in time 15 years to experience Grace Fellowship church then, or to the future 15 years from now to experience Grace Fellowship and why?

## **WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR JAKE McCULLOUGH**

### **NOT COMING DOWN - IT ALWAYS TAKES THIS (Scripture: Nehemiah 3-6)**

1. What do you like better, individual or team sports and why?
2. It is often said that we vote with our time and money. What would stand out as important in a review of your calendar and checking account?
3. Review Nehemiah 3. What does this chapter tell us? (*that there were many groups of people participating in a very organized, strategic plan to rebuild the wall*)
4. What attitudes and actions from Nehemiah's wall-builders fit Christians who want to build the church?
5. Read Nehemiah 3:5. Do you know people like the nobles of Tekoa who want the benefits of a project, but without having to work for it?
6. Describe an experience you may have had in participating in a large project with a lot of people.
7. How much do you think your presence matters at church? (*the average American church-goer attends now about 1.4 times/month!*)
8. Have you found the right place to volunteer at church? Have you looked at all the places you can serve?
9. Can you imagine how the church would be more successful, meaning, have more ability to make more disciples of Jesus, if every single person who walked in also served, gave, attended group, made efforts to invite and shared faith?
10. Jesus paid the price to fulfill the mission of the Gospel. What can we learn from His example?
11. What's our God-honoring response to this sermon series?

## **ACTION STEP**

The action step out of the weekend message was to pray a prayer that asks God to grow our faithfulness and give us your favor.

## **SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER**

Here's some interesting group prayer ideas:

- You can take the main ideas from the above passage and form your own prayer like this: "Dear Lord, please strengthen my heart-level determination to do what is right. Give me your grace to make decisions that lead to holiness."
- Adopt a missionary or a country as a small group to pray for. Ask for recent newsletters to pray through.
- Take a newspaper from that day or week. Have the small group go through it and find issues and people to pray for. Then, pray for these people and current events.
- Take one or two church staff members each week and pray for them and their ministry.
- Keep a prayer journal for the small group. Record requests and answers. Each week pray, review your requests, and report back. One of the group members may want to update the prayer journal each week.
- For each answered prayer place a stone in a glass jar. As it fills up over the school year, it serves as a visual reminder of God's power and faithfulness.

## **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