



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 16TH

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 your favorite Thanksgiving food and why?

WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR JEREMY PIEHLER

BUTTON PUSHERS - A DIFFICULT RESPONSE (Scripture: Matthew 5:43-48)

1. How well do you know your current neighbors?
2. How many of them do you know well enough to have in your home?
3. Read this week's scripture. Who are our neighbors and who are our enemies with respect to this?
4. What are some difficult behaviors from others you have experienced?
5. What are the buttons that get pushed that send you to an unhealthy response?
6. It's been said that there are five types of people we deal with: aggressive, passive, explosive, manipulative and negative. Which of these people are you dealing with right now?
7. Which of those seem most common to you?
8. Use the RFactor sheet below (*leaders: please make a copy for each person in your group*) and work through this scenario: You learn that a family member has spoken negatively about you to another family member.
 - A. Write down the event.
 - B. What is your focus, self-talk and feeling in the Default (below the line) Response?
 - C. What is the likely outcome from that E + R?
 - D. What is your focus, self-talk and feeling in the Disciplined (God-honoring, above the line) Response?
 - E. What is the likely outcome from that E + R? (leader: point out the different Outcomes and why those are better.
9. How do others actions and treatment of us dictate our reactions and responses to them?
10. Discuss how your response to your neighbor's actions, reflects your faith in Christ.

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to choose how you will respond to someone who pushes your buttons.

ADDITIONAL RELATED SCRIPTURES

Romans 12:10

Proverbs 24:17

1 John 4:20-21

Hebrews 12:14-15

1 John 4:19

James 1:19

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

8 Practical Ways to Encourage Others in Your Small Group

1. Use Scripture to remind your small group members of God's Presence, power, and promises.
2. Make yourself available to them because it's encouraging when you know somebody has your back (Ecc 4:9-12).
3. Affirm virtues you see in them and the impact they have on others.
4. Challenge your small group members to exercise their God-given spiritual gifts in new ways (1 Cor 12:7).
5. Talk about God's grace, Jesus' sacrifice, our deliverance and redemption because it's encouraging being reminded of who we are in Him.
6. Help them develop an eternal perspective and think about excellent and praiseworthy things (Phil 4:8).
7. Let your small group members know you're praying for them and find practical ways that you can actually carry their burdens with them (Gal 6:2).
8. An uplifting note, a gift or gesture of love showing somebody that you're thinking of them and believe in them goes a long way. It's contagious to encourage others! Your small group members will want to echo the ways in which you lead the way with encouraging your group. The Lord will use your effort to stretch and strengthen the faith and encourage others so they will be empowered to live according to the Spirit (Romans 8:5). If there were a spiritual prescription to follow for entering into this new season of your small group's life together, encouragement would certainly be a part of it, and God will use what you do to enrich your community together.

By Reid Smith - October 8, 2022. This article originally appeared on smallgroupnetwork.com.

Focus

Self-Talk

Feeling



EVENT	RESPONSE	OUTCOME
	Discipline	
	Default	



Focus

Self-Talk

Feeling