



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 23RD

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 way to relax?

WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR JAKE McCULLOUGH

BUTTON PUSHERS - DISAGREEMENT (Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:23-25)

1. What's your typical stance when you have a disagreement with someone? Do you push and get it figured out, do you back off, ignore it and let it go? Something in-between?
2. On a scale of 1 - 10, 10 being the highest, how much of a conflict avoider are you?
3. What area do you find that you have disagreements with people the most? Relationship issues, politics, faith, money, job responsibilities, etc.?
4. Read this week's scripture. It says in vs 24 that "the Lord's servant must not quarrel." How do we quarrel in today's society?
5. How can we separate a quarrelsome person's views, arguments, stances from the person?
6. It was said in the weekend message that we are supposed to "win the person, not the argument." What must we keep in mind in order to do that?
7. How do you decide what conversations to enter into, and which ones to leave alone?
8. What do you need to flee: being vulnerable to false teaching and side issues? Arguing about theology? Being a "know-it-all"? Sharing your views unkindly
9. What do you need to pursue? Righteousness? Faith? Love? Peace? Something else?
10. The hope is that they see _____ in us, rather than our positions or stances. Explain how we can accomplish this.

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to participate in Super Market Sweep.

ADDITIONAL RELATED SCRIPTURES (related to disagreements)

Ephesians 4:31-5:2

2 Peter 2:9

John 15:12

Matthew 7:1-2

John 17:17

2 Timothy 2:14

Proverbs 17:14

Proverbs 20:3

Romans 14:19

ADDITIONAL RELATED PODCAST

<https://proverbs31.org/listen/podcast/full-podcast/2019/12/21/bonus-how-should-i-handle-disagreements-as-a-christian>

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

When called to lead, often the response is, "I don't have what it takes." But here are five simple principles to enable you to cultivate a healthy group that produces healthy lives over time.

1. **CONNECT** your group with one another. It's your job to create a circle of friends, so ask the Lord who he wants you to bring together for at least six weeks.
2. **CULTIVATE** your spiritual journey. The dream is that you spur your group on toward love and good deeds. But this only happens by hearing the Word of God. Get into God's Word like you've never done before, because this is how you'll grow and be able to encourage others in their journeys.
3. **CHAMPION** your gifts together. Bring them in, build them up, and train them for ministry. Help people discover their unique God-given gifts. Celebrate and cheer on each other.
4. **COACH** your group to shepherd one another. Not all of us are called to be leaders and teachers. But all of us are called to disciple—or shepherd—one another. Our job is to send them out, not just bring them in and build them up. We need to send them out for the purpose of evangelism. All of us are called to one day have the name of someone we are shepherding.
5. **CELEBRATE** your lives together. The big idea here is to gather people, even when they go out and start a new group, and celebrate life together. Don't miss birthdays, anniversaries, or life-changing events.

(excerpt from the article, "Dude, I Can't Shepherd a Small Group" by Brett Eastman published on christianitytoday.com)