



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 30TH

Please review the group leader announcements on the group resources page (www.gracefellowship.cc/groupresources).

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

What aspect of your personality adds the most value to the world?

WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR JEREMIAH OLSON

BUTTON PUSHERS - DISAPPOINTMENT (Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:14-18)

1. How have you been let down by a person in the past?
2. Describe a person you know who makes promises to do something, and always seems to not do it.
3. In what area of your life do you consistently find disappointment? Such as family members, your favorite sports teams, career advancement, your faith journey, etc.
4. Read the scripture for this week. How do you feel about Paul being human and feeling disappointed in Alexander?
5. How does Paul's faith and hope, in spite of his suffering, inspire you?
6. Should we expect people to be perfect and never disappoint us? Why or why not?
7. On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the worst, how much does other people disappointing you, bring you down? And, why?
8. What is your typical reaction when someone disappoints you?
9. How should we handle disappointment when filtered through our faith?
10. How can we see God in the midst of hurt?

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to deal with those who disappoint you.

ADDITIONAL RELATED SCRIPTURES (related to disappointment)

Philippians 4:6-7

Psalms 34:18

Isaiah 40:28-31

Psalms 42:11

Deuteronomy 31:8

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

JESUS CULTURE PODCAST - "OVERCOMING DISAPPOINTMENT"

<https://youtu.be/WaUavRj8Slg>

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

5 Easy Ways to Make Your Small Group Fun

JUNE 13, 2011 / BEN REED

How do you build enjoyment into your small group?

Because if you've ever been a part of a small group that's boring, you know that humor, laughter, and fun don't happen naturally. And what one person find amusing, another can find offensive. Fortunately, although the presence of humor and fun can't be guaranteed, group leaders can help ensure there's freedom and space to pursue it.

1. Don't plan to start on time.

If you start right off the bat with the study questions, you show quickly that you don't prioritize your group members as individuals. You only prioritize getting through the curriculum. Plan on a casual start to your group each week. My group builds in 30 minutes (at least) each week before we start the study.

2. Include food!

There's something about food that seems to break down walls of resistance. Eating with your group around a table (or, if you prefer, standing up while eating snacks) helps to build a tight-knit community.

3. End on time, but don't end on time.

When you finish with the study questions and close in prayer, make sure to be done in time for group members to hang around and enjoy each other's company each week.

4. Plan for some fun.

Maybe your group needs to put down the book one night and just do a good old fashioned pot luck. Or game night. Or go bowling. Or go hang out at the park. Or grill out. Or have a chili cook-off. These events can lead to a much richer study time when you pick the books back up. Also, plan it during the time you normally gather for small group; this way, you can reasonably assume your group members have blocked off that time each week.

5. Plan extra-group activities.

Pick a random Friday night and have a girls' night out. If you have children, have the dads gather to offer childcare for the night. Then switch for the next week. Or go on a camping trip. Or go to the lake. Or go out to eat on Sunday after church.

If you truly desire to build a community of people who love and care for each other, will go to bat for each other, and consistently encourage each other—find a way to have some fun. You'll find yourself eagerly anticipating your meeting time together each week. You'll be less likely to burn out. And your group will find a renewed energy each week.

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