



# 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 NOVEMBER 20TH**

Please review the group leader announcements on the group resources page ([www.gracefellowship.cc/groupresources](http://www.gracefellowship.cc/groupresources)) there are two significant community outreach opportunities for your group to get involved with.

## **ICEBREAKER QUESTION**

Would you rather go Black Friday shopping or watch Thanksgiving football?

## **WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR VINCE BUTLER**

## **THINGS WE FORGET TO BELIEVE - GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY (Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31)**

1. Where in your life do you see chaos?
2. If you were totally in charge, how would you fix the chaos in your life?
3. How often do you find yourself asking God the *why* questions, such as; "God, why did this happen, or God, why don't you fix this mess I'm in?"
4. How do you feel when you don't seem to get answers to those *why* questions?
5. What do we think about God when we can't figure out why something is in chaos or something just never seems to go the way we think it should?
6. Read the Isaiah scriptures. What do these scriptures tell you about God's sovereignty? (*sovereignty definition: God's sovereignty is his right and power to do all that he decides to do. When he decides to do a thing, he does it, and no one can stop him. That's sovereignty.*)
7. Read Romans 8:28. How comforting is it to know that that all that happens is in the sovereign hand of God?
8. Have you ever felt that some of our struggles and heartaches have somehow eluded God or gotten past him?
9. What can you do to fight against your flesh and humanness to remember that God works tirelessly behind the scenes to make all things good according to his purpose?

## **ACTION STEP**

The action step out of the weekend message was to say the phrase; "He's on the throne and in control." And, when you don't see it, say it.

## **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES (related to God's sovereignty)**

Isaiah 46:10

Proverbs 21:1

Matthew 19:26

Revelation 19:6

Luke 12:6-7

Ephesians 1:11

Romans 8:28

Colossians 1:16-17

Job 42:2

## **SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER**

### **A few random tips for leading your group:**

- Don't be too formal. Don't run your group like a business meeting. You are creating a spiritual family, and your meetings should have a fun, comfortable feeling.
- Allow a little messiness. People are messy, right? In group we don't want to put on a veneer of spiritual perfection that makes everyone feel like they can't be real and admit their weaknesses and fears. Messiness can be intimidating, but it's a breeding ground for grace.
- View the people in your group as friends and family - not just group members. Affirm everyone who shares—even if they're a little theologically off. It takes courage to share in a group.
- Do things outside of group time. When you take the group outside of your meeting night and outside of your living room relationships will grow deeper, faster. People probably want to meet outside of group time but need you as the leader to initiate it. So, have everyone go out for ice cream, or meet at the park for a cookout on Saturday, or ... you name it.