



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 27TH

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

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Tell everyone just to think of their answer and wait to say it until all have a response. Then ask, "What word comes to mind when you hear the phrase *Holiday Season*?" Why?

WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR JASON GRUBER

THINGS WE FORGET TO BELIEVE - DOING OUR PART (Scripture: Romans 3:9-12, 21-27)

1. Did you ever get anything for free?
2. Tell about a time when you were young and told some truth from a parent or grandparent. For example, "you have to work for what you get."
3. Read the Romans scriptures. Why is sin not much of an issue in our culture today?

(All the world is under sin, and yet sin is considered an archaic topic in our secular society. It is not hard to guess why. Vice is something done against oneself; crime is something done against society or an individual; but sin is against God. Since modern culture is essentially atheistic, "sin" has become a meaningless term. Edwin A. Blum, "Romans," in CSB Study Bible: Notes, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 1784.)

4. Why don't the Israelites (God's chosen people) have a leg up on gentiles (non-Jews) when it comes to being condemned by sin?

(because we're all sinners and sinners gain pardon, not by adherence to the law, but rather by faith in Christ and his work on the cross.)

5. Explain how good works, or doing good for those less fortunate factors into the equation of God's complete forgiveness.

(it doesn't, Christians do good works because they are Christian, not to become Christian.)

6. The first line in the very popular best selling Christian book, The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren says, "It's not about you." Why do you think that's important to understand related to our relationship to God?
7. What comes to mind when you stop to ponder the price Jesus paid for your salvation?
8. What should our response to Jesus be for this tremendous price He paid? *(first, thankfulness, then we should do our best to live a life that honors him.)*

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to thank God.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES (related to God's unconditional forgiveness)

1 John 1:9

Ephesians 1:7

Matthew 6:14-15

Luke 23:34

Matthew 26:28

Acts 2:38

Acts 10:43

Romans 4:7-8

Psalms 103:2-3

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

Christmas Activities for Your Small Group (*adapted from article on smallgroups.com*)

- Ask someone on staff at your church for a list of elderly people who have a hard time getting to church every week. Choose a few of the people on the list and surprise them with caroling. Bring along a treat to share.
- Use this same list of elderly members to figure out who might need someone to shovel snow for them this winter. Divide up the needs within your group.
- Assemble several jars of Christmas cookie mix. Attach a tag to the jar with an encouraging Bible verse. Divide into groups of three or four and deliver the jars to people who are new to your church or who don't have family nearby. Make sure to let any new people know about your church's small-group opportunities or invite them to your group. After, meet back at your host home to pray for each person you visited.
- As a group, choose a holiday ministry to support. Spend time praying for this ministry and the people who will benefit from your involvement.
- Host a Christmas appreciation dinner for the staff at your church to thank them for their ministry.
- Hold a Christmas dinner and invite people who don't have anywhere to go for the holiday.