



# 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 DECEMBER 11TH (LAST ONE FOR THE SEMESTER)**

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

## **ICEBREAKER QUESTION**

Who are you inviting to Christmas Eve services?

## **WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR KEITH MINIER**

## **GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS - GHOST OF THE PRESENT (Scripture: Matthew 6:25-33)**

1. Are you a worrier? If so, what do you worry about the most? If not, why not?
2. What decisions in your life have caused the most thought, anxiety, discussion? (*Such as what career to pursue, who to marry, where to live, where to go to college*)
3. Read the Matthew scripture. What is God saying to you through this passage about handling your particular worry or disappointment?
4. What do you think God is saying to us about our earthly pursuits such as wealth, power, position, material possessions, status, etc.?
5. Describe what you believe about God knowing what's best for you. And, how does your life reflect your beliefs?
6. Is this discussion telling us not to plan or prepare for anything in the future? Explain.
7. How can we do a better job of seeking God first, to order our lives?

## **ACTION STEP**

The action step out of the weekend message was to go to church for one month without missing.

## **PRAYER**

This discussion has reminded me of this Traditional Wesleyan Prayer:

"I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."  
*(as used in the Book of Offices of the British Methodist Church, 1936).*

## **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES (related to trusting God's plan for you)**

Proverbs 3:5-6

Proverbs 16:9

Deuteronomy 31:8

Psalms 37:4-6

Psalms 32:8

Romans 8:28

Mark 5:36

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Philippians 4:6-7

## **SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER**

### **12 Ideas for a Life-Changing Small Group Christmas**

1. Start New Traditions.
2. Study the Gospels (All of Them)
3. Experience Christmas Anew.
4. Celebrate Immanuel.
5. Invite Friends to Christmas Services.
6. Love Those Who Are Struggling.
7. Give Gifts to the Least of These.
8. Throw a Party.
9. Serve Together.
10. Build Deeper Community.
11. Adopt a Family.
12. Plan for a New Year.

*(adapted from article 12 Ideas for a Life-Changing Small Group Christmas by Michael Mack on [smallgroupleadership.com](http://smallgroupleadership.com))*