



# 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 4TH**

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**

What is one of your favorite ways to relax?

## **WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY ERICA SHELTON**

### **GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS - GHOST OF THE PAST (Scripture: Ephesians 4:20-24)**

1. Did you ever buy a new car? Do you remember the new car smell?
2. What's the best part of getting something or a present that is brand new?
3. Read Ephesians 4:20-24. If you're Christian how do you understand that you have a "former manner of life" vs your new self?

*(as an extra resource, here's an excerpt from a John Piper sermon and transcript on this very topic: <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/put-on-the-new-person>)*

4. What things or behaviors in your life convince you that you are a new creation in Christ?
5. How much does your own sinful behavior bother you and what do you do when it happens?
6. How has your worldview changed since becoming a new creation?
7. What are the things in your past that you are just trying to clean up and repair but that God has forgiven and forgotten?
8. How can you give those things to Him and let them go? How can you live like a new creation and not be controlled by your past?
9. What's your biggest takeaway from this message?

## **ACTION STEP**

The action step out of the weekend message was to identify one clear lie or decision from the past and replace it with the new way of God.

## **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES (related to being a new creation in Christ)**

2 Corinthians 5:17

Romans 8:1

Colossians 1:13-14

Romans 6:6

Galatians 5:16-18

1 Peter 1:14

1 John 1:6-7

Titus 2:12-13

Matthew 9:17

## **SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER**

Pray for others that ...

- they will understand God's will;
- they gain spiritual wisdom;
- they live a life pleasing and honoring to God;
- they do kind things for others;
- they know God better and better;
- they are filled with God's strength;
- they endure in patience;
- they stay full in Christ's joy;
- they are always thankful;
- they recall God's forgiveness of their sins.

*(adapted from the article: "Facilitate Meaningful Group Prayer" by Bill Donahue)*