



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 MARCH 5TH

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

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

What do you plan to do when you retire? Or, if you are retired, are you doing what you had planned to do?

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE . . . REALLY - THE TRUTH (Scripture: John 14:1-6, Matthew 7:13-14)

1. If you were to build an addition to your house, what type of room or space would it be?
2. Describe how you have come to believe what you believe about the Christian faith.
3. If it wasn't mentioned in the previous question, what resources are you using to increase your Biblical / doctrinal / theological knowledge?
4. Read John 14:1-6. What are the disciples struggling with?
5. What do you think Jesus means by the phrase, "many rooms"? (*there is enough room in heaven for a great multitude of believers, more than can be counted.*)
6. What is the connection between John 14:6 and Genesis 28:10-12? (*hint: what is Jacob's ladder? Jesus. Who is our connection between earth and heaven. This is a great example of finding Jesus in the Old Testament!*)
7. Read Matthew 7:13. Describe the many that find the wide, easy gate to destruction?
8. Read Matthew 7:14. Describe the few that find the narrow, hard gate to life?
9. Jesus describes the road to life eternal as hard, probably because his morally restrictive teachings. How have you found the Christian life to be hard?
10. Have a couple people share their testimony, describing how they came to the decision to follow Christ. (*You should ask a couple people ahead of your group meeting. They will not want to be put on the spot with this. And, they will want time to prepare what they will say.*)

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to either repent and make the decision to follow Christ, or rejoice that you already have made that choice.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES (related to there being one way to heaven)

Romans 6:23

John 6:28-29

John 3:3

John 17:3

Acts 10:43

Mark 1:14-15

Acts 4:12

1 John 5:4

Romans 10:9

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

This is an interesting teaching on praying in Jesus name. I think it's relevant to the message:

What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name?

Prayer in Jesus' name is taught in John 14:13-14, "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." Some misapply this verse, thinking that saying "in Jesus' name" at the end of a prayer results in God's always granting what is asked for. This is essentially treating the words "in Jesus' name" as a magic formula. This is absolutely unbiblical.

Praying in Jesus' name means praying with His authority and asking God the Father to act upon our prayers because we come in the name of His Son, Jesus. Praying in Jesus' name means the same thing as praying according to the will of God, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him" (1 John 5:14-15). Praying in Jesus' name is praying for things that will honor and glorify Jesus.

Saying "in Jesus' name" at the end of a prayer is not a magic formula. If what we ask for or say in prayer is not for God's glory and according to His will, saying "in Jesus' name" is meaningless. Genuinely praying in Jesus' name and for His glory is what is important, not attaching certain words to the end of a prayer. It is not the words in the prayer that matter, but the purpose behind the prayer. Praying for things that are in agreement with God's will is the essence of praying in Jesus' name. (*gotquestions.org*)