



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 19TH

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

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

What's one chore around your house, condo or apartment that you've been meaning to do, but just keep putting off?

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE . . . REALLY - TERMS & CONDITIONS (Scripture: Luke 14:25-35)

1. When you think of the word *surrender*, what comes to mind? Are you a person who easily surrenders or would fight to the death?
2. When you were about to enter adulthood, did you have dreams of what your life would be like? What job or profession you wanted? What relationships you would have?
3. Read Luke 14:25-26. How is *hate* translated in this passage? *(In order to be a disciple, we must be willing to give up everything for Jesus. Following Jesus requires commitment and faithfulness, even if our parents choose not to follow the Lord. If and when we are faced with the painful choice of loyalty to family versus loyalty to Jesus, we must choose Jesus. Even if our family members disown us—or worse—for being Christians, we must follow Christ. It is in this sense that we are “hating” our family. Jesus’ command to “hate father and mother” requires us to prioritize our relationship with Jesus over our relationship with parents, siblings, and other family members. From gotquestions.org)*
4. Read Luke 14:27-35. Describe how you have *taken up your cross* to follow Christ. In other words, what has following Christ cost you?
5. Have any of your relationships changed since you became Christian? If so, how?
6. What do you think has been your greatest sacrifice since becoming a Christ-follower?
7. Has following Christ ever put you in a predicament where you had to make a difficult decision? If so, describe it.
8. Do you know anyone who is following Christ superficially? What does that look like?

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to determine one area of your life that you haven't given fully God what He want's, and then of course to act accordingly.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES (related to the cost of following Christ)

Luke 9:23

Colossians 3:1-25

Matthew 8:18-22

2 Corinthians 5:17

James 4:4

John 8:12

Titus 2:11-14

Matthew 19:21

Deuteronomy 6:5

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

The following is an excerpt from the article *Encouraging “Next Steps” for Your Group Members* found at smallgroups.com:

- **Less is more.** You will be more effective as a small-group leader if you narrow your focus in your covenants and steps. Teach and encourage less so that group members can achieve more. Focus only on what specific wins you want your group to achieve in a given time. Teach and encourage only those steps that will help them achieve their goals.
- **Offer a menu.** Instead of expecting group members to come up with their own next steps, offer or communicate some of the basic steps to them. For example, alert them to upcoming core courses, serving opportunities, baptisms, etc.
- **Next Steps 101.** Allow members to develop at the basic levels first, and then guide them toward more advanced steps.
- **Peer pressure.** Take steps as a group together. Nothing encourages people to action like peer pressure! Because, hey, if everyone else is doing it—why not?
- **Celebrate.** Catch your members doing something right by celebrating what they have done. Throw parties, bake a cake, get a gift, or just have fun whenever someone takes a positive step. Doing so encourages those who have taken steps, and it encourages others to start taking steps.
- **Share stories.** People are impacted by stories. Real-life examples of life change will inspire members to want experience the same.
- **Invest in relationships.** People will do anything for a good friend. And people are more likely to take on a challenge from a good friend. Building relationships and trust with your group members will make your challenges to them more effective. More relationships means more steps taken!