



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 APRIL 2ND

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

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

What is one of your favorite songs to worship to?

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE . . . REALLY - MOLE HILL or MOUNTAIN (Scripture: Romans 6:1-23)

1. As a child growing up, would you say you got in trouble a lot or not so much?
2. What's the worst trouble you've ever gotten in?
3. When did you learn that what sin was? And, was it clear that your sin separated you from God?
4. Read Romans 6:1-23. What does it mean to be "dead to sin, and alive in Christ?"
5. How is the image of baptism a symbol of what Christ did?
6. In what ways do people become slaves to sin?
7. Why do Christians still sin? *(God's desire for us is that we not sin, and one day our sanctification will be complete (1 John 3:2). But, until that time, we still inhabit fallen bodies in a fallen world, and we struggle with the flesh and sometimes lose the battle. But we will not be lost; Jesus Himself intercedes for us as our High Priest (Romans 8:34) gotquestions.org)*
8. How do you wage war against sin? *(check out this article: <https://jdgrear.com/five-steps-to-fighting-sin-in-the-spirit/>)*
9. What happens in our lives if we don't fight against sin? *(we succumb to temptation, we miss out on God's blessings, we aren't fit for further ministry, our witness to the world is diminished or ruined, etc.)*
10. What steps will you take this week to fight against the sinfulness in your life?

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to take communion and be reminded of the work of Christ on the cross so that we have the ability to fight against sin.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES (related to human sinfulness)

Romans 5:12

2 Peter 3:9

Romans 3:10-18

Revelation 1:5

Hebrews 4:15

Matthew 1:21

Genesis 2:17

Galatians 5:19-21

James 1:14-15

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

Facilitate Meaningful Group Prayer

Proven tips to make it happen from an experienced small-group leader. (smallgroups.com by Bill Donahue)

Model It

- Be a person of prayer yourself—pray for your members and for who might fill the open chair, asking God to give you his direction in leading the group.
- When you pray out loud in the group, keep your prayers honest, authentic, and from your heart.
- Basic guide for group prayer: Short simple prayers create safety, simple prayers are direct and honest; Spirit-led prayers rely on God's power, and silent prayers are okay for anyone, especially newcomers.

Keep It Safe

- Don't call on someone to pray unless you've asked permission beforehand (or you know them well).
- Don't expect everyone to pray every time.
- Try to avoid praying in a circle. Allow members to pray one at a time as they feel led.
- Respect the intimacy level. As the group grows in deepening relationships, a sense of safety will foster a deeper experience in prayer.
- Be clear on who will close the prayer time.

Guide the Prayer

- Give guidelines, but let the Holy Spirit lead.
- Avoid lengthy discussions on prayer.
- Include prayer each time you meet.
- Use a variety of praying methods.