



# 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 9TH**

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

## **ICEBREAKER QUESTION**

What's your favorite Easter candy?

## **EASTER - OVERCOME (Scripture: John 16:33, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8)**

1. Where is the most peaceful place you have ever been to?
2. What does it mean to be an overcomer?
3. Read John 16:33. What type of trouble should we expect in this world? (*anxieties and cares; John 14:27, hatred and persecution; John 15:18-20, sin and temptation; Ephesians 2:1-2, spiritual forces; Hebrews 2:4, sorrow and death; 1 Corinthians 15:16-27*)
4. How does Jesus overcome (*conquer* in some translations) the world? (*see Romans 5:12-15 and Rev. 20:7-10*)
5. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. This is a restating of the Gospel Message or Good News. Where had Paul learned of this? (*Paul was an educated Jew; Acts 22:3 and Paul received divine revelation; Galatians 1:11-12*)
6. Why is it good news?
7. If you have shared this message with others, how do you go about it?
8. What makes Jesus' work on the cross personal?
9. If you invited people to Easter service and they came, how will you follow up with them?
10. If you invited people to Easter service and they didn't come, don't give up, pray for them and make a plan to invite them again.

## **ACTION STEP**

The action step out of the weekend message was to figure out which category you are in:

- A) I already have a relationship with Jesus
- B) I would like to start a relationship with Jesus
- C) I think I might want that, but need more time
- D) I don't see myself ever having a relationship with Jesus

Then, take action on where you are.

## **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES (related to Jesus overcoming the troubles of this world)**

1 John 5:4

Romans 8:37

Galatians 2:20

Psalms 27:1-14

Romans 12:21

John 14:27

Luke 1:37

Revelation 2:11

Ephesians 6:12

## **SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER**

### **4 WAYS TO INCORPORATE 'CARE' INTO SMALL GROUPS**

#### **#1 Make it Simple**

Caring is all about making the 'other' our focus so caring for group members does not need to be complicated. Sometimes it is the little, simple things which can make a huge difference. Sending a text message or making a phone call just to say hi or to follow-up a prayer request. Organizing to have a catch up during a lunch break with a group member who is struggling. Making an extra meal for someone in the group who may be unwell, or visiting at home with a bunch of flowers from your garden.

Phoning a group member and letting them know that you have just prayed for them. Offering to help with a manual task or a 'one off' project a group member is committed to. Visiting during a hospital stay. Sending a card in the mail. (old-fashioned maybe - but people will be touched that you took the time to show you care!)

Following up on anything shared during your group meeting *in any way at all* shows care! I am certain you could come up with a long list of other ideas by simply thinking about what makes you feel cared for. Why not take some time to 'brainstorm' with your group members and make a 'cared for list' which could be made available for all group members.

#### **#2 Plan to Care**

It is important to talk about how important 'care' will be when your group first establishes. What will it look like? What are the group member's expectations? An optimum time to discuss this is when you are setting up your ground rules or a group agreement. I have found a group agreement is a very helpful tool for healthy group life. If you don't have ground rules or a group agreement why not plan to have a conversation about this sometime soon.

#### **#3 Create a Role** (*remember our new Team Leading approach*)

While general care for group members will happen in 'ad hoc' ways it may be useful to be on the lookout for a group member who exhibits pastoral care gifts. Take them for coffee and talk to them about how you see the potential of their gift being released in the group. Ask them to commit to be the 'carer' for the group. Keep in mind that it is helpful to have a time frame around the role (People are more likely to take on a role if they know that it is not for life!) It is also helpful to be clear about what the role will entail - (I have found it works well to have a simple written role description.)

#### **#4 Be Clear**

If you do appoint someone to be the group 'carer' it is important also to be clear with the group about how this will work. Specifically, to let them know that this role does not negate the fact that we are all responsible to show care for one another! Outline how the group 'carer' will take on other specific tasks or may even coordinate some of the aspects of care across the group members I mentioned in the first point of this article. Remember - Caring is all about making the 'other' our focus - something we can all do!

(by Tracey Ware, [smallgroupnetwork.com](http://smallgroupnetwork.com))