



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 MAY 7TH

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

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

What's your favorite cheese?

FUTURE ME - LEAVING YOUR MARK (Scripture: Romans 12:9-21)

1. If you took a poll of three people in your life; a family member, a co-worker and a neighbor, would they say you are a kind person? Why or why not?
2. Where are you on the spectrum of: "I remember everyone's birthday and send cards ahead of time" . . . to "when's my anniversary?"
3. Read Romans 12:9-21. How is love supposed to work within the family of faith? What about outside the family of faith?
4. List the do's and the don'ts in this set of passages. Which one is the hardest for you and why?
5. Here Paul paints a picture of a living-sacrifice lifestyle motivated by genuine love for one-another. How can we be genuinely motivated by this same love?
6. When we think about $E + R = O$ (Event plus Response equals the Outcome), how does our response (R) to others affect the outcome of them seeing Christ in us?
7. It was said in the weekend message that we should "leave them better than we found them" related to others we encounter. Give an example of a time when you did that.
8. Who is the most "others-centered" person you know? What stands out in their behavior?
9. Share a time when you missed a critical moment in someone's life. For example, you ran into a friend who just lost a loved one and forgot to mention it. Or, you skipped out on a graduation party because you were tired.

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to pick one of the three points; priority, timing and kindness and start displaying that with one person.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES (related to kindness and compassion for others)

Galatians 5:13

Luke 6:31

Proverbs 12:25

1 Samuel 20:14

Acts 28:2

Colossians 3:12

Proverbs 16:23-24

1 Corinthians 13:4

Hebrews 13:2

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

10 SIMPLE IDEAS TO CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP THIS SUMMER

(Adapted from an article on northridgeleaders.com, June 22, 2016)

In a few short weeks summer will officially begin. The kids are finally out of school, Father's Day celebrations are complete, and the 4th of July is right around the corner.

As you gear up for summer vacation, holiday gatherings, travel plans, graduation parties, weddings, and trying to figure out your kid's summer schedules, you may be reminded that it has been 3 or 4 weeks since you have seen or connected with most of your Community Group. Instead of feeling guilty about your lack of connection, enjoy the needed break. It is okay to take a step back for a while, soak in the warm weather, kickback and relax.

Enjoying the Community Group break though doesn't mean you have to disconnect. There are many simple ways you can connect with your group this summer that won't take extensive planning.

HERE ARE 10 SIMPLE WAYS TO CONNECT:

1. Catch A Movie Under The Moonlight - Head to a drive-in theatre or movie on the barn.
2. Backyard BBQ - Grill up some meat, play a lawn game, or toss a frisbee.
3. Play With Fire - Who doesn't love a late night Summer bonfire with a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup s'more?
4. Get Wet - The weather and the water are just about the right temperature to take a dip in a group member's pool, or to go swimming or boating at a lake.
5. Do An After Church Picnic - Pick up some sandwiches and drinks as you leave your campus and head to the nearest park.
6. Grab Some Grub At a Food Truck Festival - Get a taste of the local cuisine as there are many opportunities to do this in various communities.
7. Ice Cream!!! - Eat it with other people. That's all I need to say about that.
8. Festival It Up - There are many opportunities around Ohio. Check them out at <https://ohiofestivals.net/ohio-festivals/>.
9. Connect 1 on 1 - Instead of trying to coordinate meeting with everyone, occasionally grab breakfast or coffee with an individual group member.
10. Send A Text - This takes the least amount of time, but is a great reminder for those in your group that you have not forgotten them and are praying for them.

4 REMINDERS AS YOU REACH OUT TO YOUR GROUP:

1. Not Everyone Will Be Able To Make It. That is okay. Enjoy the time you have with those who do.
2. Invite Someone You've Been Praying for. This may be one of the safest ways to connect your neighbor, co-worker, family members, friends, or that new guest at Northridge with others who love Jesus.
3. Nothing Beats Informal Connections. Connections outside of group meetings are one of the best ways to build memories, deepen friendships, and develop trust for long term spiritual influence.
4. Enjoy The Break!!! Connect when you can but take some time to breath, take a nap, and enjoy the Summer!