



# Groups

## Quick Start Guide for Lent Short-Term Groups

This guide is written to help give you a quick jumpstart in leading a short-term Lent Group. The study guide can be located at [www.grace.org/studyguide](http://www.grace.org/studyguide) and we encourage you to take between 30-60 minutes in reading over the guide, the Scripture passage, and having a plan you are comfortable with. As with all study guides, the goal is not to have all the questions asked and answered but to engage in thoughtful conversation with the hope of landing on a key takeaway of a Biblical teaching that we are invited to practice for everyday mission. Thank you for serving, we are praying for all of you.

### **1. Welcome everyone and set-up the group time and make introductions.**

Leader: "We are entering a 5 week Lent experience together. As you know Lent is the time set aside in the church calendar to spiritually prepare our souls for Easter. Some traditions choose to fast from a variety of things ranging from coffee, alcohol, chocolate, or a form of media or a practice. Feel free to visit last year's Lenten journey FastForward for more. This year's theme is called "Changemaker" and we will focus on Holy Week throughout all of Lent.

But first, Welcome - so glad you are here! Let's go around the room, share our name, where you are from and just a very short answer to why you wanted to join this Lent group."

### **2. Explain the purpose of our group time.**

Leader: "The vision of our Group Life is to practice the way of Jesus together. And we express this in 3 values - Spiritual Formation, Missional Living, and Strengthening Relationships.

This means we want to create space to grow spiritually together, get to know one another (at least a bit :) and mediate on how we can as individuals and perhaps as a community can impact the world around us with the love of Jesus.

We'd like to keep our study time focused to about 45 minutes. The questions are designed to create discussion, learn from the Scriptures together, and see how it can be applied to every day life.

We also like to take some time to share a prayer request and pray for one another. It's ok if you don't have a personal need that you feel ready to share. It's simply an opportunity to pray for others and to invite people to pray for you. Let's pray and begin our study ..."

### **3. Finish the time with prayer and try to make it different from week to week.**

Perhaps one week, one person closes the time in prayer. Perhaps another, you take turns in praying for one another. Perhaps the following is to pray silently together. Whatever feels right to you but the real hope is that you invite the Spirit to be at work and the best way to do is in prayer.

Leader: "Getting to know each other and praying for one another is one of the hallmarks of Christian community. Throughout the weeks, we'll vary our prayer request sharing and praying together and tonight, we want to invite you to share a specific request that you would like for us to keep in prayer til we meet next week."

### **4. Conclude the time and clarify schedule for next week.**

Leader: (I'm sure you will know what to say here :)

### **After the Meeting.**

Leader, it's always helpful to follow-up with an email to the group or to that new person for coming and participating. Perhaps it was an especially-meaningful night, and you would like to affirm the time or to an individual who made a thoughtful contribution or to touch base on a prayer request. Encourage everyone to meet next week, confirm the time, and bless them as we all seek the Lord's grace in practicing the way of Jesus.

We write this with the hope of empowering you to lead faithfully and personally, please adapt anything above to fit your personality, gifting, and group context.

If you need any help, please don't hesitate to contact me or Pastor Rachel.