

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Ephesians – “The depth of God’s grace lived out in love.”

Start with Prayer

- Spend a good amount of time praying for those that were baptized this weekend. Pray that they would grow in their walk with the Lord. That COBC would be a faithful church to teach them and keep them accountable. That they would be mighty men and women of the Lord by God’s grace.
 - **First Service**
 - Nathan Bruhl
 - Maghen Saltzman
 - **Second Service**
 - Jessica Cookson
 - Audreyanna Elliott
 - Victoria Glover
 - Kambria Wadkins
- Spend a good amount of time praying for the parents that dedicated their children to the Lord on Sunday.
 - **Parents:** Slavic and Cynthia Stankevich
 - **Kids:** Scarlett & Caspian

Why Evangelize?

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

- Do any of you struggle with the idea that God is the great giver and we are the great receivers? Why is that?
- Can you give anything to God that would profit him? Read the following verse to help answer this question.
 - **Acts 17:24-25.**
- Read and discuss the following quote by John Piper.
 - **John Piper** - What can I give my Maker? If he were hungry he would not tell me, for the world and all that is in it is his. The birds of the air, the bugs in the field, the cattle on a thousand hills belong to him (Psalm 50:10–12). Everything that is, is God's. I cannot improve him. I cannot enrich or add to him. I am utterly and inescapably and always the receiver. "He is not served by human hands as though he needed anything" (Acts 17:25). How, then, shall I live for him? How shall I please him? The answer to that question stands written in the lesson book of creation and mirrored in our own conscience according to Romans 1. I must be thankful to him! Psalm 50:23 says "He who brings thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies God."
- **Read Romans 1:18-21.** Focusing on verse 21, discuss why thankfulness is such a big deal.
- Read and discuss the following quotes by Jerry Bridges and A. W. Tozer.
 - **Jerry Bridges writes** - Thanksgiving is an admission of dependence. Through it we recognize that in the physical realm God "gave us life and breath and everything else" (Acts 17), and that in the spiritual realm, it is God who made us alive in Christ when we were dead in our transgressions and sins (Eph. 2). Everything we are and have we owe to God's abundant grace. For "What do you have that you did not receive?" (1 Cor. 4:7).
 - **A. W. Tozer** - To admit the existence of a need in God is to admit incompleteness in the divine Being. Need is a creature-word and cannot be spoken of the Creator. God has a voluntary relation to everything He has made, but He has no necessary relation to anything outside of Himself. His interest in His creation arises from His sovereign good pleasure, not from any need the creation can supply nor from any completeness it can bring to Him.
- Has anyone ever struggled with the question, "Why evangelize if we have been chosen and predestined?" Explain.

- **Read Acts 10:1-8**
- Why did God tell Cornelius to find Peter?
- Why didn't God just have the angel share the gospel with Cornelius? Do you think the angel would have wanted to?
- Couldn't God use angels to share the gospel with the entire world? Read Revelation 14:6 to help answer this question. Why doesn't God use angels now?
- **Read Romans 10:14-15** – It is our duty to preach the gospel to the nations, but why do you think Paul adds the quote from Isaiah in verse 15?
- **Read and discuss Mark 10:28-30.**
- How does Mark 10:28-30 relate to Acts 10:43-48? How joy-filled do you think Peter was in Acts 10? Why?
 - ***Leaders Cheat:** Jesus promised Peter 100-fold in family in Mark 10. In Acts 10 Peter gained brothers and sisters in Christ when he faithfully shared the gospel to Cornelius and his family. Acts 10 is a partial fulfillment of Jesus' promise to Peter in Mark 10.*
- How would the change of perspective that, "God doesn't need us to share the gospel" but instead "we get to share the gospel," embolden us?
- Share how you as a group can keep each other accountable in our calling to reach the nations.