

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.

Please continue to pray

- Pray for all those affected by this virus (health & job loss).
- Pray for our culture, society, and governing officials.
- Pray for churches & church leaders across the state.
- Pray for our church & church leadership.

What we have learned

1st – We are called as Christians to be submissive to the state.

- What is the essence of Paul’s statement in Romans 13:1-5?
- Why do you think Peter adds “for the Lord’s sake” in 1 Peter 2:13-14?

2nd – We are called to pray for and honor our governors and state officials.

- Why is it hard to honor our governors in our contemporary culture?
- What does it mean in Romans 13:3 that the governing officials are servants (deacons or ministers) of God?
- **Read and discuss** the following quote
 - Such rulers, whether presidents or prime ministers, senators or members of parliament, high court justices, county supervisors, or members of a city council, are due honor and respect as servants of God. Regardless of their personal beliefs about our relationship to God, they represent Him and are doing God’s work (whether they realize it or not) by promoting peace, justice, and safety among their subjects. – John MacArthur
- How did David exemplify Romans 13:1-5 in his relationship with Saul? (1 Samuel 24:1-10)

3rd – Our heart should be for peace with all men and civil obedience.

- What attitude can we take that will ensure that unbelievers will ignore or reject our message? What Christian trait can by itself make the unbeliever more receptive to hearing the gospel?

- How has the political atmosphere changed in the last 6 years?
- How can we glorify God in our conversations with other people when it comes to politics? **Read Titus 3:1-2** to help answer this question.
- Which one of our duties listed in Titus 3:2 is also a beatitude and a fruit of the Holy Spirit?
- Why is it so harmful and wrong “to speak evil” of someone? What especially does it reveal about us when we direct it at rulers and leaders?
- According to Titus 3:3-5, why should we be patient with people, especially unbelievers?
- What moral and spiritual situation has characterized the world since the Fall? What should Titus 3:1-8 keep us mindful of and motivate us to do?

4th – Sometimes civil disobedience is necessary.

- Before talking about the necessity of civil disobedience, reflect as a group on the blessings we have as Americans.
- **Read and discuss** Acts 5:17-29.
- How often will most of us have to follow the apostles’ example and “obey God rather than men”? What situation would require civil disobedience from you?
- What principle did the two Jewish midwives in Exodus 1:17 exemplify?

5th – Civil disobedience shouldn’t come from a rebellious heart.

- What is especially commendable about the manner in which Daniel and his three friends differed with the king’s dietary request? (Daniel 1:8, 12-14)

O Almighty God, our only help in time of trouble, look with pity and compassion upon me, now under your afflicting hand. Be my stay and confidence under all my sorrows and afflictions, and suffer me not to sink under the weight of them, through any dejection or faintness of spirit. Give me such an entire trust and confidence in your mercy, through the merits of my dear Redeemer, that I may cast all my care upon you, and with cheerfulness commit myself into your hands, assuredly believing that all things shall work together for good to them that love you; and, O Lord, grant that I may be found such a one as, through your great mercy, may be entitled to the benefit of your gracious promises. – **prayer from Henry Thornton**