



Grace Group Guide



United Purpose: Together we will designate time and place to deepening our desire for God, caring for and urging each other to action!

United Actions: WL Groups...

- Scripture:** Be in the Word together
- Encouragement:** One another each other
- Prayer:** With and for each other and the lost
- Accountability:** Now What? Put it into action!



-INTRODUCTION (For Leaders Only)-

This week at the church picnic, Pastor Kip's goal is to refocus our attention on our theme: WITH. We were saved for relationship **WITH** God in community **WITH** each other. In this Group Guide, we're going to focus on a passage that gives us insight into both of these: Ephesians 3:14-4:6. We'll try to answer these questions: 1) What kind of relationship do we have with God? 2) What kind of relationship should we have with each other?

-ICEBREAKER-

- 1) Why do you think relationships are so important? Why can't we just live isolated from one another?

Transition: Relationships are important because God created us for relationships! In fact, as believers, we were saved **for** relationship! More specifically, we were saved for relationship **WITH** God in community **WITH** each other. In this group guide, we're going to take a look at what one passage (Eph. 3:14-4:6) teaches us about our relationship to God and to one another.

-DISCUSSION-

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

- How does this passage describe our relationship to God?
 - It describes us as being in a relationship with the Triune God
 - Paul is praying to the Father (v.14)...
 - That the believers may be strengthened by the power of the Spirit (v.16)...
 - So that Christ may dwell in their hearts (v.17).
 - It describes us as being loved by God
 - They are "rooted and established in love"
 - Paul prays that they would grasp/know the love of Christ (vv. 18-19)
 - Leader Note: Consider reading **1 John 4:7-21**, which also speaks about the incredible love of God

Read Ephesians 4:1-6

- How does this passage describe our relationship to one another?

- It describes us as being united with one another: **one** body, **one** Spirit, **one** hope, **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism; **one** God and Father of all.
- It explains that we must live in unity with each other in humility, gentleness, patience, and bearing with one another in love. (v.4-6)
 - **Leader Note:** As we reflect on the love of God (3:18-19), we are able to see the importance of having that same love for one another (4:2)

-REFLECTION-

- What does it look like for you to be rooted and established in God's love? (Eph. 3:17)
- How can we live a life worthy of the calling we have received? (Eph. 4:1)
- Why is it difficult for us to grasp/know (and accept) the love of Christ? (Eph. 3:18)
- Why does Paul immediately emphasize unity within the Church after talking about God's love? (Eph. 4:2-4)
- What does Paul mean when he says "make every effort" to keep the unity in the Church? (Eph. 4:3)

-APPLICATION-

- Take some time right now as a group to kneel, if possible, and ask the Father to help us grasp his love. Have a couple of people pray out loud, or just everyone pray to themselves. The point here is not to have an activity, but to truly ask the Lord to help us grasp his love by the power of the Holy Spirit indwelling in us.
- Over the next couple of days, consider doing this again! Also, consider rereading these passages and reflect on the love of God and the unity of the body of Christ.
- Ask yourself: do you "make every effort" to foster unity in the church? If not, confess this to God, and consider what it would look like if you did.

-PRAY-

- Thank God for His love. Thank Him for bringing us into a relationship with Him.
- Pray and ask God to help you love others the way that He has loved you.
- Pray for unity in the Church.
- Pray that God would be glorified in your life, in this church (WL Grace), and in the global Church. Consider repeating Paul's closing in 21: "to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen" (Eph. 3:21-22).