

Grace Group Guidelines

Commitment: This group will function best when we all make it a priority. Some weeks, travel or general busyness make it hard to come. Ask the Lord to help you fit other things around it. When you don't come, you not only miss out on spiritual benefits for yourself, but you deprive others of your presence and perspective.

Check-in: We will start the group each week with an intentional check-in. More details will be shared during week two.

Curiosity: Be more curious than certain with the members of this group. Ask, what might God be doing through this lesson in my life and in the lives of my group members?

Conflict: We value "redemptive friction" at Westside as a means God uses to grow us together as a body. If conflict happens in our group, don't be afraid of it. God is at work! We'll work together to resolve it.

Confidentiality: Let's honor each other by not sharing someone else's story without their permission. What might seem insignificant to you could feel vulnerable for them.

Sharing: We will encourage five ways of sharing during our group time:

- Sharing over Scripture: We want to look at our lives in light of Scripture. We desire to wed what we learn in this Grace Group to the issues in our lives. Let's encounter Jesus together!
- Safe sharing: There's no pressure to share, only invitation. It takes time to build trust, so please be respectful when others share. Kind listeners are more curious than certain. Don't leapfrog over compassion to fix or solve. If you forget and blurt out something prematurely, please ask for forgiveness.
- Balanced sharing: If you are a natural talker, practice listening as an act of love toward others. If you are naturally private, practice sharing your thoughts as an act of love toward others.
- Story sharing: All our stories are embedded in God's story of grace – so the more we learn His story, the better we interpret our own. For many, sharing about your life in a deeper way, as you connect your life with Scripture, will be a new experience.
- Silence: It is totally ok to have silence in between responses. Silence gives time to process and reflect.

REMEMBER: JESUS IS WITH US IN THIS! LET'S LOOK
FOR HIM AND LOOK TO HIM TOGETHER.