

Universal Group Guide

Group Reconnect

Spend some time chatting about a few fun, lighthearted topics or questions before diving deeper into the content. Check out Willow's [Small Group Connection Guide](#) for some ideas.

Open in Prayer

We encourage you to open and close your group sessions with prayer. Remember, prayer is just a conversation with God. It doesn't need to be long, fancy, or complicated.

If you'd like to follow a specific prayer format, consider the following option:

1. Open by praising God. God, you are holy...all knowing...full of love and peace...
2. Include a statement of confession. I'm sorry for the times I have focused more on myself than on you...
3. Thank God for something He has given you. I'm grateful that you've provided me with food to eat and a place to live.
4. Make a request. Would you open my ears to Your wisdom and grace as I learn more about You? Amen.

Message Recap

Consider asking group members to take turns sharing their notes from the weekend message to review the main points before beginning the discussion questions.

Discussion Questions

Decide ahead of time which three questions you'd like to prioritize. Feel free to customize the questions to fit your group dynamics and the specifics of the weekend message.

1. Read the main Scripture passage from the message.
 - What word or phrase stands out to you?
 - How did you feel as you listened to the passage?
 - What do you find encouraging in this passage?
 - What do you find challenging in this passage?

2. What did you hear today that was new to you?
3. Which points did you find most insightful? Difficult to understand?
4. How did the message connect with your current experiences or with what God has been teaching you?
5. How did the message challenge you?
6. Did any other verses come to mind during the message? Read them together. What can we learn from them?
7. Is there anything else from the message you hoped we would discuss today?

Live It Out

1. What is one “a-ha” you will take from the weekend message and our discussion?
2. If you applied your learning from this week’s message, how would the next week be different?
3. How will you apply the message to your life this week?
 - What might get in the way of taking that next step?
 - Would you like to ask someone in the group to help hold you accountable?

Close in Prayer

A closing prayer is an effective way to point people back to our Loving Father as they seek to apply their new learnings throughout the week. If we remain connected to the power of the Holy Spirit, He will remind us of His call for us and give us the strength to follow through. Your closing prayer could include the following:

1. *Gratitude.* Thank you, Lord, for giving us this time together to study Your Word.
2. *Acknowledgement of “a-ha” moments.* We are so grateful for the new awareness and insights you gave to us today.
3. *Request for help throughout the week.* As we go back to our homes, families, and workplaces, please remind us of what we’ve learned today and give us the courage and strength to obey whatever You are calling us to do. Amen.