

NOTE TO LEADERS: HOW TO USE THE GRID GROUP GUIDE

Inviting people to see and take everyday opportunities to follow Jesus.

“The biblical narrative is not so much interested in giving us pat answers as it is in helping us ask better questions.” - Jay Y. Kim, Analog Church

Each week’s Grid Group Guide will be broken down into several parts, but it isn’t a check-list or to-do list, but rather a guide intended to more fully engage with the weekend’s message, connect with your group, and grow together in hearing and heading the Holy Spirit. This “how to” is more about explaining the philosophy behind each section than providing a step-by-step on how to ask questions—you’ve already got that part down!

Scripture Focus:

The scripture focus will be from the weekend sermon. You can read this aloud as a group when you meet, text or email it to your Grid Group members ahead of time to read and pray through, or incorporate it into meeting in other ways (create scripture verse memory cards, pray through it Lectio Divina style, get creative).

Note To Leaders:

Each week’s guide will include a note to leaders with a short reminder of the weekend’s teaching central theme, and a reminder that these questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion in your Grid Group. Don’t feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don’t have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow. Most weeks this section will follow a similar format, but if there are ever special instructions, reminders, or a change up in how the guide is to be engaged, it will be noted here. The Grid Group Guide as a whole is for everyone—leaders, hosts, participants—but this section is specifically for you.

Personal Reflection Questions:

The personal reflection questions will be the same each week:

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend’s message?
3. How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to act?

Sometimes it can be tempting to skip over questions when they’re consistent, but our belief is that while the questions will remain the same, the reflection and response will be different each week. The Personal Reflection Questions can be discussed as a group or used as “pre-work” to

help set the tone for your Grid Group discussion but not asked directly when you meet. Either way, these work best when everyone has had some time to think through them ahead of time. If discussed in the group, order them after the Icebreaker!

Sending an email reminder each week about your group is a great practice and including the weekly scripture verse and these questions can be a great addition. When you send them to members of your Grid Group ahead of time, encourage them to use these as journal topics, prayer prompts, or for reflection with family and friends around the dinner table. Spend some time with God reflecting on what He is saying to you through the message. If you spend one-on-one time with God, you'll be best prepared to engage with your Grid Group whether you discuss these directly or not.

Icebreaker Suggestions:

Each week will include an icebreaker suggestion related to the topic. Some weeks will be silly, some will be serious, but all are designed to build community and get to know each other better. Relational connection isn't a precursor to the "meat" of the study, it's an integral part of discipleship so feel free to take the time to fully engage and get to know each other.

Grid Group Questions:

Each guide will consist of several topical questions related to the scripture verse and weekend theme. Feel free to go through them directly as listed, use them as springboards to further discussion, or to follow the direction your group naturally takes. As the facilitator you're the rudder ensuring the group stays on course, but the ultimate course is connecting more fully to God and to each other. Most weeks the questions will facilitate that, but some week's you'll need to be attuned to the Holy Spirit's leading to drop the questions and follow the group. If you're someone who needs permission to do that, you have permission.

Light the Grid:

This is another section of the guide that will remain consistent most weeks. The two questions will be:

1. Where do you see Jesus at work?
2. How can you respond?

These questions can be answered as a group (i.e. "our Grid Group will respond by...") or individually. The important part is keeping in mind the mission *to see and take everyday opportunities to follow Jesus*. Consider reaching out to your group throughout the week with where you've seen Jesus at work or sharing how you're responding or seeking accountability as you go through the week. Whether a group response or an individual response, build connection as you're all engaging missionally.