

## **The Purpose of Grace Growth Groups:**

Growth Groups help you take your next step with God by developing meaningful friendships built around God's Word. As we connect with one another and with God's Word, incredible things take place and we naturally grow. In community, this growth occurs through 4 primary activities:

### **We SHARE Life**

Each week we'll take time to connect and share what is happening in our lives. This will become more natural as we begin to feel more comfortable with one another. Sharing life and accepting each other is essential to the healthy relationships needed for growth groups.

### **We STUDY God's Word**

Each week we'll study the previous week's sermon text, though we will not rehash the sermon. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life. Accountability to God's Word is transformational and brings spiritual growth in our lives. We also take time to seek God in prayer for relevant needs and issues present in our group.

### **We SUPPORT Each Other**

Each week we'll learn how to care for one another as Christ instructed us. People who know each other well, care for each other well. This care will take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging, accountability, advice, and meeting real needs.

### **We SERVE Together**

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. Jesus reminds us that the world will know we're his disciples by our love. The role each member fills in serving one another and the local community is essential; for we were created to serve others, not ourselves. Throughout the semester, we will serve the other members of our group and together the group will serve the local community through one service project.



## **Fret Not**

### **I. How not to live:**

- A. Fret not
- B. Envy not
- C. Cease from anger

### **II. How to live:**

- A. Trust in the Lord
- B. Commit your ways to the Lord
- C. Wait on the Lord

# Food for Thought Guide

For the week of January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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## **Growth Group Announcements & Information:**

- **Signups for Open Spring Growth Groups continue today..**  
Below are some details about groups to help you know how to take your next step in community.
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## **What are Growth Groups?**

Growth Groups connect God's people around God's Word to help you take your next step with God. Each group is made up of 10 to 16 people. Groups meet weekly throughout each semester and meet all around town. This is not a traditional Bible study, sermon, or even a lesson presented by a teacher. *This is a conversation*, led by skilled facilitators whose primary responsibility is to engage everyone in the group, and get them talking about the Scripture text from the previous weeks' sermon.

We don't rehash the sermon; instead, we "dive" into a discussion based around the sermon text. In Growth Groups, individuals share life together, they support one another, and they focus their lives on God's Word and encouraging one another to live a God-honoring, faithful life.

## **What is the schedule of Growth Groups?**

Groups meet throughout the week to ensure that there's a group that best fits everyone's schedule. Each semester of groups runs for 15 weeks. Our Spring Semester begins the week of Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> and runs until the end of April. Groups will break from May until August for our summer break before signing up for the Fall Semester later this year.

## **What type of Groups are there?**

Our most popular type of groups are our General groups, which combine all age demographics into one group. We also have specific station-in-life groups available for couples with no kids, or young kids, or teenage kids; we have groups for empty nesters, senior adults, and men and women only. There are other "off-menu" groups that meet and focus on a specific curriculum separate from our sermon-based structure.

## **How do I sign up?**

You can sign-up for all open groups at the following link: (*groups that are full will not be listed*)

**<https://churchgroupshq.com/grace-evangelical-church/>**

## **You can sign up at the following locations:**

- In the lobby...
- Or at home on your computer or personal mobile device (*Phone, tablet, etc.*)
- Or by contacting the church office at (816) 279-2090.

## **But what if I'm returning to my previous Growth Group?**

Each growth group leader has updated their rosters based on the Fall Semester's attendance. If you have a question as to whether your name is still on your group's roster, you will need to contact your group leader from the Fall. If you attended, even fairly consistently, then your names will remain on the roster. However, if you did not attend; then you will need to sign up.

## **What if I have kids?**

Grace Evangelical Church offers free childcare for all of our Growth Groups that meet on Wednesday evenings. Many groups meet on Wednesdays to take advantage of that benefit. Some groups that meet off-site do welcome children, but others do not. On the list of groups there will be an indicator to whether an off-site group offers childcare.