

Compass Groups are purpose-driven small groups that consist of individuals, couples, and/or families for the purpose of connecting people, wherever they are on their faith walk, with an intentional small group for the purpose of growing in their love for Christ through fellowship, discipleship, service, and worship.



FELLOWSHIP

Today, as you're gathered together with your Compass Group, spend time getting to know each other. Enjoy a refreshment, take time to enjoy and appreciate your H.O.S.T.'s hospitality, and mindfully appreciate the time you get to be with this community, today.



SUPPORT

Give space for anyone in the group to share their prayer requests. Allow space for them to elaborate if they'd like to, but also be willing to accept that not everyone is ready to share more. Oftentimes, the best support we can give is to assure others that they are heard, and that we're willing to meet one another precisely where they are. Some things to consider:

1. Be sure not to rush this. Vulnerability requires our patience and listening.
2. What are some of your fellow Compass Group member's highs and lows from the last week or month? Where might people want/need support or perhaps advice? Where might people simply need to share a grief, sadness, or hurt? Are there any updates from previous gatherings?
3. As a group, keep in mind that this isn't about solving something, necessarily. It's about listening with compassion, support, and when helpful, accountability.



WORSHIP

As your Compass Group settles in for your time of study, take time to light a candle in the center of your space. This time, light the candle as you consider those who are not free in the world today – especially victims of the modern day slave trade. Rev. Carl Thomas Gladstone, a musician and deacon in the United Methodist Church shares the song, **“Never More To Sleep”** from his album The Abolitionist Hymnal. Take a moment as a group to hear the song and follow along with the lyrics print out.



SONG: <https://carlthomasgladstone.com/abolitionisthymnal>
(or scan QR Code to the Left)

Unison Prayer: Lord, as we gather here as a Compass Group, remind us that there are still many in the world today who are unable to move and live freely in the world. We pray for those who have been made victims of the modern-day slave trade, around the world and even in our own back yards. Help us *advocate through or words, our actions, our economic power, and even our political involvement for*

those held in slavery throughout the world. Inspire us and the world around us to a Christ-like compassion and grace. May we be a part of your healing presence in this world today.



GROW

The “Compass Group” Curriculum will include scripture, a video, and series of discussion questions. Typically, this part of your gathering will take about 30 minutes. That said, feel free to take your time to make sure that everyone who would like to share can. As you have time to discuss, be sure to create space in your group for those who may not be quick to share, especially if you are one who particularly loves to share.



SCRIPTURE: The following scripture passage is from the Common English Bible. Take time to have volunteers read these passages aloud for the group to hear.



Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character, so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good.

-2 Timothy 3:16-17 (CEB)



VIDEO: As a group, watch the video, “Informed By Faith”

This video can be found on the GBUMC App & Website, as well as on the GBUMC YouTube channel. <https://youtu.be/YHsQE4XsYJs>



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: Take some time to explore any or all of the following questions with your Compass Group. Keep in mind that exploration is often more meaningful than concrete answers. Also, stay comfortable with the reality that answers often lead to more questions.

1. Before we dive into politics, make a list as a group of all the ways our faith compels us to live in community with others? If you want to site scripture, you can.
2. Considering a definition of Politics: “*The art or science concerned with guiding or influencing government policy,*” what do you suspect the role of politics *should* play in our lives (*note the difference between “politics” and “partisanship”*)
3. What are some of the ways we can allow our informed faith to inform our politics (policy, procedures, etc.)? *Example: Jesus’ emphasis on caring for the poor should inspire us to place more emphasis on programs that care for the poor.*
4. Partisanship tends to divide us into “us” vs. “them” communities rather than “us” for “them.” How can we hold to our informed faith convictions (see question 3), and still be in respectful and productive dialogue with one another?



Closing Prayer

Prayed in Unison: “May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: wherever he may send you; may he guide you through the wilderness: protect you through the storm; may he bring you home rejoicing: at the wonders he has shown you; may he bring you home rejoicing: once again into our doors.” -S. Claiborne, *Book of Common Prayer for Ordinary Radicals*