



Prince of Peace Church

Sample Template for Community Groups

1. Greeting & Introductions (5 minutes)

- a. Welcome: Begin by warmly welcoming everyone, especially new members. Introduce yourself and allow new members to introduce themselves.
- b. Opening Prayer: A brief prayer asking for God's blessing on your time together.

2. Sharing Life Together (15-25 minutes)

- a. Updates & Check-ins: Allow members to share significant life events from the past week—joys, challenges, or burdens. Keep this time encouraging and judgment-free.
- b. Community Care: Discuss how the group can support one another practically (e.g., meals for someone recovering from surgery, help with childcare, etc.).

3. Scripture Study & Sermon Discussion (30-40 minutes)

- a. Read the Passage: Read aloud the passage(s) from Sunday's sermon together (choose 1-2 translations to bring clarity).
- b. Guided Discussion: Use the sermon discussion questions to reflect deeply on the text.

4. Prayer Time (10-20 minutes)

- a. Share prayer requests (personal, familial, for the church/community, etc.). Write them down for follow-up during the week.
- b. If the group is large you may break into smaller pairs or triads for deeper, personal prayer.
- c. Close with a blessing, such as, "*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.*"

Additional Best Practices for Healthy Groups

- Start and End on Time: Respect everyone's schedules.
- Confidentiality: Remind members that what's shared in the group stays in the group.
- Encourage Participation: Create a space where everyone feels heard and valued.
- Rotate Roles: Share responsibilities for hosting, leading discussion, or providing snacks.



Prince of Peace Church

Ordinary Time - September 7

“Hatred: The Path to Love?”

*Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
Grant us so to **hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest** them, that by patience and the
comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting
life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Scriptures for Reference - Luke 14:25-33

Questions for Discussion

What stood out to you from the sermon or the reading?

Jesus says to “count the cost” of following Him. What do you think He means by that, and why does He use such strong language about “hating” family and even life itself?

In what ways do people look to parents, spouses, children, or friends for ultimate fulfillment? Why do those relationships eventually let us down when treated as ultimate?

How have you personally experienced the disappointment of looking for fulfillment in people or things that couldn’t deliver?

Consider the image of the sun outshining the stars to describe our love for Him. How does this image help you understand what it means to “hate” lesser loves in comparison to Christ?

Jesus doesn’t strip us of love—He reorders it. How does loving Him first actually free us to love parents, spouses, children, and friends better?

Why is it significant that Jesus bore His cross before asking us to bear ours? How does His sacrifice give us courage to follow Him today?