



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.



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11th Sunday After Pentecost, August 9, 2026

“Walking Through the Storm”

Scriptures for Reference: Matthew 14:22-33

1. Read Matthew 14:22–27. The disciples had been straining against 8-foot waves in the dark for hours before Jesus approached them. Why were they terrified when they saw Him walking on the water?
2. Drawing from the sermon, what ancient superstition existed about dying at sea, and what dark narrative about God ("Jesus sent me here to perish/abandon me") might have been spinning in their minds?
3. In verse 27, Jesus says, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." In the Greek, "it is I" is Ego Eimi ("I AM"), recalling God's divine name at the burning bush (Exodus 3:14) and Yahweh who "walks on the waves" (Job 9:8). How does Jesus revealing His divine identity directly confront and rewrite the "story" of fear the disciples were telling themselves?
4. Read Matthew 14:28–32. Peter steps out in faith but sinks when he looks at the wind. Jesus addresses his doubt (oligopistos = "divided loyalty" or double-mindedness). What two competing stories were at war in Peter's heart?
5. Notice that Jesus catches Peter and walks him back through the raging storm before calming the wind in the boat. What does this reveal about where our true safety lies during life's trials?
6. On the Cross, Jesus endured the ultimate storm of God's judgment so that we would never be abandoned. Because Jesus took our judgment, any storm we face today is for refinement, not punishment. When circumstances feel out of control, how can asking these two questions reframe your focus? Father, what are You doing IN me? Father, what are You intending to do THROUGH me?
7. The preacher emphasized that faith is not a solo, private experience—God formed us as physical beings into a church body to support and carry one another through trials. Where in your life are you currently trying to handle anxiety alone, and what is one practical step you can take this week to let others in your Christian community carry or support you?