



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 - July 27

“Anxiety, Attention, & The Practice of Prayer”

Scriptures for Reference Luke 11:1-13

Summary of the Sermon

- Our culture promotes blind optimism without real grounding.
- Jesus gives us a better hope—not empty reassurance, but relational confidence.
- Prayer, especially the Lord’s Prayer, reshapes our hearts by anchoring us in two truths:
 - a. God is a loving Father.
 - b. God is an attentive Friend.

Read Luke 11:1–13 aloud as a group.

1. The Real Problem of Anxiety

“Our culture says everything will be alright... but how can it know?”

- What are the sources of anxiety that press in on you most—financial, relational, emotional?
- How does our culture try to soothe anxiety? Where does it fall short?
- Why do the images of God as Father and Friend make such a difference in how we approach life’s fears?

2. Jesus uses two images to describe the Father - the Attentive Friend and Perfect Father.

“If even a tired, cranky friend will help... how much more will your heavenly Father respond?”

- How does this image of attentive friend encourage persistence in prayer—even when we feel unheard?
- What does it mean to pray with the “confidence of a child”?

4. The Cost of This Relationship

“Jesus was abandoned by the Father so that we would never be.”

- How does Jesus’ suffering (Gethsemane and the Cross) give us assurance in prayer?
- What lies do we tend to believe about God’s nearness in moments of silence, pain, or unanswered prayer?

5. Prayer as Formation “The Lord’s Prayer isn’t just words—it’s a formation tool, a way to reshape your inner life.” Discuss how the petitions of the Lord’s Prayer counter anxious narratives that seek to control us.

- How might praying the Lord’s Prayer daily challenge or comfort you?

6. Rule of Life & Rhythms of Prayer

“Prayer is not just for crisis. It’s a rhythm of communion.”

- How do you currently practice prayer—personally, with family, in church?
- What would it look like to start a “rule of life” around prayer? (e.g., Daily Office, mealtime prayer, walking & praying)
- Are there ways your community (church, small group, family) could commit to deeper, more frequent prayer?