



# 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  
4th Sunday of Easter - April 26, 2026  
“Bad Shepherds and the Good Shepherd”

**Scriptures for Reference:** Psalm 23 & John 10:1-10

1. **Opening Reflection (Connecting to Experience)** - When you think about the leaders or voices you trust most right now, what qualities make them trustworthy? How does that compare with the kinds of leaders people tend to mistrust?
2. **David and the Limits of Self-Leadership** - Looking at David’s life—especially his failure with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11)—what does his story reveal about the dangers of having the power to “shepherd yourself”? In what ways do you see that same tendency in modern life?
3. **Listening to the Text (John 10:11–15)** - Jesus contrasts the “good shepherd” with the “hired hand.” What differences stand out to you in how each one relates to the sheep? What do these differences reveal about Jesus’ character?
4. **The Claim of Jesus** - In John 10, Jesus isn’t just claiming to be a helpful guide but identifying himself with God’s promise in Ezekiel 34. Why do you think this claim would have been so provocative? What makes it either compelling or difficult to accept today?
5. **The Voice of the Shepherd (John 10:16, 27)** - Jesus says his sheep “listen to his voice.” What do you think it means, practically, to recognize and follow the voice of Jesus in everyday life? What competes with that voice?
6. **The “Heavy Crown” of Self-Rule** - The sermon describes self-leadership as wearing a “heavy crown.” Where do you see the burden of trying to manage, control, or define your own life? What might it look like, in a concrete way, to “resign from the throne” and trust Jesus as your shepherd?