



# 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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## Third Sunday in Lent - March 9, 2026

### “Looking for Love in all the Wrong Places”

Scriptures for Reference John 4:1-45

#### **1. Beyond the Label**

Jesus ignored ethnic and gender "labels" to meet this woman (vv. 7-9). How does his refusal to treat her as a "cartoon" or a stereotype challenge the way you view "outsiders" in your own life?

#### **2. The Joy of Being Known**

The woman was excited that Jesus "told me all that I ever did" (v. 39). Why is being fully known by Jesus a source of freedom rather than a source of fear?

#### **3. Truth Without Shame**

Jesus named her history directly without shaming her (vv. 16-18). How does naming our sin "without the shame" help us address the root cause of our pain instead of just the symptoms?

#### **4. Identifying Our "Wells"**

We often try to "self-medicate" our spiritual thirst through habits or relationships (vv. 13-14). What are the "broken wells" you are tempted to go to when you feel empty or insecure?

#### **5. Spirit vs. Ceremony**

The woman tried to pivot to a religious debate about the proper place to worship (vv. 20-24). Why is it often easier to focus on religious "rules" than to stand before God in "Spirit and Truth"?

#### **6. The Cost of the Gift**

The sermon connects the "Living Water" of John 4 to Jesus' cry of "I thirst" on the cross (John 19:28). How does his sacrifice allow us to be both fully known and fully loved by God?

#### **7. Leaving the Jar Behind**

The woman left her water jar—her old priority—to tell others about Jesus (v. 28). What "water jar" (an old identity, a habit, or a defense mechanism) do you need to leave behind to follow him more fully?