



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 - August 31

“Humility, Social Status & True Validation”

*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 14:1, 7-14

Questions for Discussion

Where do you most often find yourself craving validation (work, school, relationships, appearance, social media, etc.)?

Can you think of a time when healthy validation (from a parent, spouse, friend, or mentor) gave you deep encouragement? What did that feel like?

In Jesus' day, people scrambled for the best banquet seats to gain honor. What are some modern “banquet seats” in our culture where people compete for validation?

Why do you think reaching the “top seat” — recognition, achievement, or influence — often still leaves us feeling insecure?

Read Luke 14:11. What does Jesus mean by “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted”? How does this challenge our culture's identity narrative?

Jesus calls us to invite those who cannot repay us. What are some examples of “kingdom hospitality” you could practice in your own daily life?

Where do you notice the temptation to form “closed circles” — whether in friendships, church, or community — that only include people who can benefit you?

How does Jesus taking the lowest seat — rejected and crucified — reshape the way you think about validation?

What difference would it make in your week ahead if you rested in God's validation instead of striving for human approval?