



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

Sunday - March 22

“The Raising of Lazarus”

*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 - John 11

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the difference between worldly glory and the glory of God? Where do you see yourself chasing worldly glory—and what would it look like to pursue God’s kind of glory instead?
2. Jesus delays going to Lazarus, even though he loves him. Can you think of a time when God felt late or absent? How does this story challenge or reshape that experience?
3. Mary and Martha both say: “Lord, if you had been here...” What is your version of that sentence right now? Where are you tempted to question God’s timing or goodness?
4. Instead of giving a direct answer, Jesus says, “I am the resurrection and the life.” Why do you think Jesus offers himself instead of an explanation? Is that satisfying—or frustrating—for you?
5. Jesus knows he’s about to raise Lazarus, and still he weeps. What does this show us about the heart of God? How might this change the way you bring your pain to him?
6. “The proximate cause of Jesus’ death is Lazarus’ life.” How does it deepen your understanding of God’s love to see that this miracle leads directly to the cross?
7. After raising Lazarus, Jesus tells others, “Unbind him, and let him go.” Where might God be calling you to participate in someone else’s freedom—or to let others help “unbind” you?