



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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Ordinary Time - June 22

“Grace in Motion”

*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

Galatians 3:23-29; Psalm 63:1-8; Luke 9:18-24

Questions for Discussion

1) The Greek word for disciple is *mathētēs*, which is similar to “apprentice.” What stood out to you about the examples from the ancient Greco-Roman world? (See quotes below.)

- “Ischyryon...has disclaimed to Heraclas...Thonis, a minor, to be taught the art of weaving for a period of five years...and will produce him to attend the teacher...every day from sunrise to sunset, performing all the orders that may be given to him by the said teacher, on the same terms as the other disciples. ... And Heraclas, on the other part, agrees to instruct the disciple in [weaving] as thoroughly as he knows it himself” (P. Oxy. 725).
- “As soon as they have put on the cloak and let their beards grow, they cry, “I am a philosopher!” Yet no one says, “I am a musician,” merely because he has bought a fiddle and fiddlestick; nor, “I am a smith,” because he is dressed in the cap and apron. Rather, they take their name from their art, not from their garb” (Epictetus, *Discourses*).

2) Read Luke 9:23. What does it mean to “deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow” Jesus? Why do you think Jesus insisted on denying oneself and taking up the cross as essential to discipleship?

3) In the ancient world, discipleship was reserved for the elite—but Jesus opens it to everyone. How does this speak to your own story or self-image?

4) How does Galatians 3:27–28 (“All who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ...”) help you understand your identity as a disciple?

5) Where do we get the power/strength to follow Jesus? Our own natural strength? Or something else?

6) What’s one “baby step” you could take this week to grow in Christlikeness?