

Guide for Growth Group Hosts

Why The Church?

THINK ABOUT IT

There was an emphasis on connecting in community in last week's session. What have you put into action as it relates to relationships based on what you learned? Have you restored any broken relationships? Share it with the group.

MAIN GROWTH GROUP SCRIPTURE

“And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”
2 Corinthians 6:18 (NLT)

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- (Read the Verse Below) The Church is a family, so we operate out of love. What comparisons can you draw between a family and a church?

“Now you...are not foreigners or strangers any longer. . . . You belong to God’s family.”
Ephesians 2:19 (NCV)

- (Read the Verse Below) The Church is a body, so we are better together. Each part has a specific function that enables the entire body to function properly. Think about this verse and discuss it in the group. How does it relate to the church where you attend?

“The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.” **1 Corinthians 12:12, 27 (NLT)**

- (Read the Verse Below) The Church is an army, so we are always on mission. Based on this verse, why do you think it’s important to stay connected to other believers? What can this verse teach us about always being prepared?

“Finally, let the mighty strength of the Lord make you strong. Put on all the armor that God gives, so you can defend yourself against the devil's tricks. We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and powers in the spiritual world. So put on all the armor that God gives. . . . And when the battle is over, you will still be standing firm. Be ready!”
Ephesians 6:10-14 (CEV)

- (Read the Verse Below) The Church is a hospital, so we offer hope and help to everyone we can. With this understanding, why do we sometimes expect others in the church to be perfect? How should you react to others knowing that the church is a hospital?

“When Jesus heard this, he told them, ‘Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.’” **Mark 2:17 (NLT)**

- (Read the Verse Below) At Heritage, our beliefs are our foundation and our values drive our behaviors. These values are: Follow Jesus, Spend Time With God, Live Generously (A Life of Worship), Serve Others, and Connect in Community. Discuss the meaning of each of these values in the group.

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshipped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.” **Acts 2:41-47 (NLT)**

- (Read the Verse Below) Our purpose (love) was given to us by God. We must love God with all our heart and love others like we love ourselves. Which of these do you feel is the most difficult to do? Why? Which of these is the easiest to follow? Why?

“Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” **Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT)**

- (Read the Verse Below) At Heritage, our mission is to reach others for Christ and train them to serve Him. Our strategies are constantly adapting to fulfill our mission, but the mission itself was assigned by Jesus and never changes. In the Church in general (global), what are some strategies that have changed over time to fulfill the mission assigned by Jesus?

“...I do everything I can to win everyone I possibly can.” **1 Corinthians 9:22 (CEV)**

LIFE APPLICATION

Why is our mission at Heritage so important? Because everyone you know will spend eternity somewhere! What are you doing to reach your family & friends and tell them about Jesus? Discuss this in the group and share if you've had any difficult sharing Christ with them (the others in the group can offer suggestions or share what they have done in sharing the Gospel with family members who initially were not as receptive to the message).

"God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself. In Christ, God did not hold the world guilty of its sins. And he gave us this message of peace. So we have been sent to speak for Christ. It is as if God is calling to you through us. We speak for Christ when we beg you to be at peace with God." **2 Corinthians 5:19-20 (NCV)**

DIVE DEEPER

Go deeper during the week!

- A great way to dive deeper and learn more about Jesus is by reading **God's Word** daily. Commit to reading for at least 5 minutes per day to start. Here is a bible reading guide to help you take your next steps in that area: <https://experienceheritage.org/next-steps/read-the-bible>
- Read the **daily devotionals** each day found at www.experienceheritage.org/blog. You can sign up to have them delivered daily to your email inbox by clicking here: <http://experienceheritage.org/Devotionals>.
- During your daily quiet time with God, read this **memory verse** and think about its meaning:

"And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." **2 Corinthians 6:18 (NLT)**

- **Watch the messages** online at www.experienceheritage.org/messages.

PRAYER GUIDANCE

Pray for courage and boldness for those in the group to share Christ with their family and friends.