

# HOW TO USE THIS GROUP GUIDE

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## CONNECT (10 MINS)

- Pick one or more of the warm-up questions and have all the group members give a response to the question(s).
- Make sure everybody gets a chance to speak. Don't let talkative people dominate the conversation, but graciously welcome everybody to participate.

## TRUTH (15-20 MIN)

- Read the scriptures and paragraphs in this section to clearly communicate what the Bible says about the week's topic.
- **"DISCUSS" sections:** These sections get people discussing the practical implications of the truth being discussed. Have one or two people give an answer, but don't spend too much time on these questions.

## GRACE (5 MINS)

- Read the grace scripture and section which shows how the passage points to Jesus Christ and God's grace.
- This section is really important, because it shows that life change begins with the grace of God and not our own efforts.

## **CHANGE (10-15 MINS)**

- Have everyone give an answer to each of the change questions.
- Take a good amount of time here. Really encourage people to think through how they can practically put truth into action.

## **PRAYER (10-15 MINS)**

- Read through the prayer focus points and have one or two people in the group pray.
- Make sure not to rush through prayer. The things we want God to change in our lives will often happen through prayer.

## **DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN (2 MINS)**

- This final portion aims to get people reading the Bible for themselves and thinking about engaging others with the gospel.



**w/God**

**Week Three**  
**Life Together with God**

# Connect

*BREAK THE ICE AND  
GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- When has someone offended you?
- How did you handle that offense?

# Truth

UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS  
THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING

This week, we're in the third part of our series *With God*.

This week, we're reading John's first letter to his churches, reminding us that loving God means loving each other, and that *we are called to have a hate-defying love for each other*.

# EMBRACING LOVE

**READ:** 1 John 4:7-12

**DISCUSS:** For John, how do we know what love is?

John roots love in God giving his Son for us, even when we were sinners, so that we could have life. If we love one another the way God has loved us, his presence is made real in us.

# DEFYING HATE

**READ:** 1 John 4:13-21

**DISCUSS:** What does John think it looks like to love God?

If we truly love God, that means loving our brothers and sisters the way he has loved them: graciously, fully, and patiently.



# Grace

*SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS*

**READ:** 1 John 4:9, slowly.

Think about what God has done for you in Christ, both in the Gospel story and in your own life. What kind of God is your God?

# Change

*APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR  
THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS*

- Is there anyone you need to forgive?
- Is there anyone whose forgiveness you need to seek?

# Prayer

*RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER*

- Worship God for the love He's shown by sending his Son.
- Ask God to fill you with His Spirit so that you can live fully in love for your brothers and sisters and have the strength to forgive and be forgiven.

## **DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN**

- Have you spent time with God consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're bringing Christ to?



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