



# LEADER'S GUIDE

Dear Leader,

Congratulations! You have chosen to be a part of an exciting journey. On this journey, we trust God will be at work in your life and in the life of your group as you discover together how his purposes are fulfilled in community. Thank you for being willing to be a leader during this 40 Day adventure!

What follows is a guide that will help you as a leader to know how to customize the 40 Days of Community for your group within the context of Grace Chapel. Some of what Pastor Rick will say in his teaching sessions will not apply to us as a church, and some things that we'd encourage you to emphasize aren't mentioned in the sessions. Lead your group through the entire study, but allow the this guide to alert you to some special areas of focus and provide you with helpful tips to think about as you lead each week.

Relax, enjoy, and have fun as you lead and learn!

Serving with you,

Tom Van Antwerp  
Pastor of Community Life  
Grace Chapel

## SESSION 1: WHAT MATTERS MOST

### Do:

- ✓ Create a welcoming environment with refreshments ready when people arrive. Assign someone to welcome guests at the door and take coats.
- ✓ Enjoy the people as they come!
- ✓ Provide nametags - a good idea for the first couple of weeks.
- ✓ Spend a few minutes on Question #2 of Connect Together and the guidelines on p. 231
- ✓ Remind people of the schedule in the weeks to come by looking at p 236. We encourage groups not to have more than two rotating facilitators. This can become confusing and unpredictable. Do rotate the snack preparation, however.
- ✓ Appoint a person from your group to take the lead on the Outreach Project that will be discussed in the weeks ahead. You can do this ahead of time and privately if you have someone in mind. We will call this person an **Impact Coordinator**. Give your Impact Coordinator a copy of the enclosed Missions Opportunity Report.

### DON'T:

- ✗ Feel obligated to watch the Group Lifter, decide for yourself if it is helpful for your particular group.
- ✗ Allow the implementation of Question #1 of Serve Together take your group more than a week. It's a great way to begin working together and will lead to a wonderful encouragement and affirmation of someone. Just be sure to keep it simple knowing you'll be involved in an Outreach Project in the weeks ahead.

### CHANGE:

- \* Question #1 of Share Together: Use the Circles of Life diagram on page 232 to help you think of a neighbor, family member, friend or co-worker who would benefit from joining your small group or **coming to Grace Chapel's Grand Opening on Saturday, February 11th.**

Note: A major outreach thrust during our 40 Days of Community will be our Grand Opening in February. Encourage your group to have everyone bring someone! We'll talk more about this in the weeks ahead.

## SESSION 2: REACHING OUT TOGETHER

A major component of the 40 Days of Community involves encouraging and equipping groups to connect directly with their local communities through outreach and service. We hope that groups will reach out in love to the communities in which they live! This will be the focus of your study this week and much of your discussion time will be dedicated to brainstorming what your group might do.

### Do:

- ✓ If you haven't already, appoint a person from your group to take the lead on the Outreach Project. We will call this person an **Impact Coordinator**.
- ✓ Impact Coordinator: Ask your group to list on an index card the names of 5-10 people who are not yet Christians that they would like the group to pray for. Give out 10 Grand Opening Invitations (for Community Life Building Grand Opening on February 11th) to each person in your group and encourage them to invite the people on their card.
- ✓ Impact Coordinator: Look over the Local Missions Opportunity Report that is provided as an appendix to this Leader's Guide. This report helps to clarify what we hope your group will be working on in the area of outreach and is what is referred to in Question 1 of Share Together.

### CHANGE

- \* In Question 3 of Share Together remember to schedule a portion of your outreach project for our **All Church Day of Outreach on Saturday, May 13th**. Read more about this in the Local Missions Opportunity Report.

### NOTES:

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## SESSION 3: BELONGING TOGETHER

I hope you're enjoying the people in your group! We believe that connecting with others like you are doing is an important part of what it means to be a follower of Christ. If your group has just assembled for the first time during the 40 Days of Community, we hope you consider leading this group beyond the 40 Days. Grace Chapel has many groups that we call LIFE Communities that meet regularly, and we'd love to include your group as a LIFE Community in the months that follow the 40 Days. You'll be hearing more about what this can mean for your group in the days ahead.

**All Leaders!: Please join us this Saturday - January 28th- for our Leader's Training Brunch from 8am – 12pm in the Fellowship Hall. Together we'll experience a time of celebration, connection, and prepare you to think about what might happen in your group beyond the 40 Days of Community.**

### Do:

- ✓ Let people who express an interest in membership (or Partnership, as we call it at Grace Chapel) know that our next Partnership class is an all-day Saturday course offered on Saturday, February 18. A fall class will also be offered next year. More info in Inside Grace in the weeks to come.

### CHANGE:

- \* In Question 2 of Share Together everyone is encouraged to write the names of friends they would like to bring to church (you did this last week) we want you the focus of these invitations to be on the Grand Opening on Saturday, February 11th. This is where you can encourage people in your group to bring a friend! Remind group members to be bold in giving out the invitations they received last week.

### NOTES:

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## SESSION 4: GROWING TOGETHER

This week's session needs very little additional comment.

### Do:

- ✓ Listen especially to the Help for Hosts this week as Rick shares about how to respond to the hurts of people. Good comments!
- ✓ Encourage your group to consider additional Growth opportunities through Adult Discipleship Courses that are offered at Grace Chapel on Sunday mornings and Tuesday nights.

### DON'T:

- ✗ **Appoint a Ministry Project Coordinator as Pastor Rick suggests in the Helps for Hosts. We aren't going to encourage groups to do a coordinated Ministry Project together. Instead, we want to allow for more some to be spent on planning and implementing the Group Outreach Project. This is a significant departure from the study next week, so please be sure to carefully read next week's notes.**

### NOTES:

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## SESSION 5: SERVING TOGETHER

Be sure to read this section, as we are taking a significant departure from the study guide this week!

### DO:

- ✓ During Connect Together, remind your group about the Grand Opening on Saturday, February 11th and ask who is inviting whom!
- ✓ Remind your group that the Celebration Sunday is this weekend. Invite your group to sit together on Sunday morning at one of the services.

### DON'T:

- ✗ Lead your group through the Share Together or Worship Together sections tonight. Read below for further explanation.

### CHANGE:

\* This week's Teaching Session is on the value of Serving Together. In his message tonight, Pastor Rick distinguishes between service and outreach. Outreach, he says, is serving the world outside of the church, while service is ministry within the church. He says that both are done most effectively as people accomplish them with one another.

At Grace Chapel, we would agree! We place a high value on teams serving together to accomplish the ministry of the church. There are many serving teams at Grace in every area of ministry - and Grace Chapel couldn't function without them!

**The change in our approach is this:** Because we want to encourage individuals from your group to connect with an existing team (one that they feel most gifted and passionate about), and because we want to bring focused attention to your groups' effort on the Outreach aspect of the campaign, **we won't be encouraging your groups to do a Ministry Project (as Rick defines "Ministry") together.**

Much of your discussion following the video, therefore, will be centered on encouraging people in your group to become a part of one of these teams and serve with passion and dedication. All of the aspects of Serving Together will apply to the teams they might join or are currently a part of.

You will want to say something to this effect to your group **BEFORE** the video is shown, so that they understand how we're applying this teaching to our context and therefore won't be confused. After the video is shown, you can follow this revised study guide.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Are you currently serving in a ministry area similar to what Pastor Rick spoke of in his teaching? If you are, share with the group about it.
2. Are there any pressing needs within the area of ministry that you are currently serving in? What are some of those needs?
3. Where do you find the most joy when it comes to helping others?
4. What aspect of Serving Together that Pastor Rick taught about tonight is most compelling to you as you think about serving? Have you seen any of these aspects demonstrated in a ministry in which you have served or are serving?
5. The true test of a servant heart is in how you react when you are treated like a servant. Have you ever been treated like a servant? How did it make you feel?
6. Consider these roadblocks to ministry: time constraints, over commitment, lack of interest, lack of confidence, lack of information. Which of these roadblocks presents the biggest obstacle for you? What can you do to avoid or overcome these barriers to ministry?
7. Is there a step you might take this week to deepen your commitment to serving others? How can this group provide support for you in your efforts to serve?
8. How does this teaching impact the way we approach our Outreach Project together?
9. Pray together
  - for each other's areas of ministry
  - for your group's Outreach Project efforts
  - specifically for the people you are each inviting to the Grand Opening on Saturday.

# SESSION SIX: WORSHIPING TOGETHER

This week's Training Session needs little additional comment.

## DO:

- ✓ Pay attention to Questions 2 and 3 of Before You Leave. Make a plan for your future together.
- ✓ Have an additional conversation about what your group intends to do with your Outreach Project as you look towards **May 13th, the All Church Day of Outreach.**

## DON'T:

- ✗ Pay attention to Question 1 of Before You Leave. We've already had our Celebration!

You're here! You've done it! You're coming to the end of the 40 Days of Community. Thank you for your dedication, your commitment, and your leadership. We trust that you have grown as a result of this experience, and that you have discovered even more deeply what it means to love God, the church, your group, and your world. Thank you so much for being a huge part of what God has done in our church during the past 40 Days! We couldn't have done it without you.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!"

- Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)