



# HOME GROUP GUIDE

September 15, 2019

We Help People — Ephesians 4:11–16

**About this guide:** This guide is provided to assist your Home Group in discussion and application of the most recent sermon. This guide provides direction for application-based discussion within a small group as well as discussion material. **Please know that the guide is not designed with the intent that every question be answered systematically.** Feel free to pick and choose the questions that fit your group and structure your time together using the guide to maximize your group's benefit.

Notice organization of the guide: Looking Back, Looking Up and Looking Forward. “Looking Back” is the time for the group to consider how the last week or two has gone, to share about struggles and victories. Consider choosing one or two items from this section to answer.

“Looking Up and Looking Forward” is a time to discuss the sermon and how the group might further apply the truth of God's Word, making specific plans individually and as a group to walk by faith in the week to come. This is also a time to encourage each other, minister to each other and pray for each other. Try to choose a couple elements from this section.

The guide also contains a family discipleship section with a few ideas on how to intentionally engage in following the Lord as a family.

## Looking Back:

- Share how you have been doing since you last met:
  - What biblical truths have been shaping your life and heart over the last week or so?
  - What has dominated your prayer life this week?
  - What was a “win” in your life this last week (something that happened that resulted in thankfulness, a moment of spiritual growth or victory, an answered prayer, etc.)?
  - What was the biggest challenge in your life this last week? Is there anything that you need to share with your Home Group in the form of confession?
- With whom were you able to begin to build a gospel bridge of conversation since the last time we met? With whom were you able to share the gospel message?
- How can the group help you this next week?

## Looking Up and Looking Forward (specific, realistic, measurable, personal): Read Ephesians 4:11–16; Luke 12:42–48.

**Recap:** Being a ready bride consists of making ourselves ready individually and also fulfilling our part of helping the church as a whole become ready. We cannot become the ready bride unless we are loving God, loving people and intentionally seeking to help others do the same.

1. Helping others love God and love people is critical in becoming a ready bride. We see this in Ephesians 4:11–16 as well as other places in the Scripture.
  - What are some places in your life in which God has given you opportunity to help others love God and love people?
  - How have you leveraged your time, talent and treasures to help others do the same?

- What are possible ways you can become more faithful in stewarding your time, talents and treasures to help others love God and love people so that we might become a ready bride?
2. Making disciples is key in helping others love God and love people. This disciple-making is best done from within the context of the church.
    - What groups are you involved in within the context of FBG that provide an opportunity for deeper relationships, accountability, encouragement and a place where others can speak truth into your life?
    - Talk about the importance of the church and why your walk with Christ is connected to the church and is not simply a “personal” walk with Christ.
    - What are passions that you have that could be leveraged for the sake of the church, that we might become a more ready bride?
    - What gifts have you been given that could be leveraged for the sake of the church, that we might become a more ready bride?
    - Who has the Lord put you in proximity to in order for you to help them find and follow Him?
    - What is a next step you need to take in helping others find and follow the Lord?
  3. Luke 12 discusses a parable or a story about being ready for the master to return.
    - How would your life change if you knew that the Lord would return for His bride soon?
    - There are consequences for not being ready that oftentimes we minimize or ignore. How would you change your engagement to prepare for the Master if you believed the reality of the consequences associated with not being ready?
  4. We all have a next step in our relationship with Christ and in engaging with the church.
    - What is your next step?
    - How can we help you take it?

**Don't forget:**

1. Pray for one another. Share one specific prayer request you need your group to pray each day until you meet again.
2. Pray for each of our campuses: the Georgetown Campus — Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and the Liberty Hill Campus at 11:00 a.m.
3. Pray specifically for the Liberty Hill campus pastor and associate pastor positions.

**Family Discipleship Ideas** (Deuteronomy 6:5–7):

**When you wake:** Each morning this week, pray for people who will be in close proximity to you that day. Your kids can pray for others they will be around at school and you can pray for people you'll be around at work, etc. Ask the Lord to help you encourage these people in a way that helps them move closer to Jesus.

**Before you sleep:** Talk about the people you interacted with during the day. Share about the moments you were able to encourage someone in their relationship with Jesus and talk about moments you didn't quite take that step. Pray together for the people you shared about and encourage your kids in the steps they took today.

**When you sit down:** Come up with a task that will be difficult for someone to do alone, but manageable together. Gather your family together and ask them if anyone would like to volunteer to help. Then give them the task and have them try to do it on their own for a little while. Everyone can encourage them, but nobody can help them. Give enough time for them to get tired. Then ask if they would like some help. When they say yes, have everyone jump in and get the task done quickly. Bring your family back together and talk about why it was so much easier together. Then share about how, as believers in Jesus, we were not meant to live life alone. God intentionally designed the church to work together to accomplish the task of helping other people find and follow Him. Talk specifically about the need for accountability, encouragement and partnership for the sake of the gospel.

Share with your family what the Lord has done through the church in your life. It's not merely a group of people cheering each other on. It is a group of people working together to help prepare the way for the Lord's return.

**Along the way:** As you go this week, look for moments to point out to your kids opportunities to help others get closer to Jesus. Teach them how to look for these moments all throughout their day.