

# Life Together In the Word

## Grace Group Host's Guide

### Grow Closer In FELLOWSHIP with One Another

Spend 5 to 10 minutes connecting in community with one another with these basic relational questions:

- How has the week been for each of you? How about the whole year of 2012?
- What has been changing in your life lately?

### Grow Deeper in MATURITY with One Another

Spend approximately 30 minutes studying the Bible together, including the video accompanying this lesson.

Read Acts 2:42-47

There were at least five ways that the early believers grew spiritually together:

1. They **learned** about the **Bible** together (doctrine, teaching, discipleship).
2. They **lived life** together with a close **bond** (fellowship, connection, community).
3. They **prayed** and **worshipped** together (praise, prayer, worship).
4. They **served** one another and **met needs** together (service, ministry, generosity).
5. They **reached lost people** and brought them to Jesus together (evangelism, mission).

When it comes to Bible study and prayer, there are some practical ways we can grow together.

- Have a **plan**.
  - YouVersion.com
  - BibleGateway.com
- **SOAP**ing the Bible together.
  - **S**cripture (read it)
  - **O**bservation (write it down)
  - **A**pplication (live it out)
  - **P**ray (talk with God)
- Praying through **ACTS**.
  - **A**doration of God.
  - **C**onfession of sin.
  - **T**hanksgiving and praise.
  - **S**upplication and intercession for others.

Discuss these questions together:

1. What has worked for you in the past in terms of being consistent in prayer and Bible study?
2. What difference have prayer and Bible study made in your life?
3. What are your plans for the coming year in the areas of Bible study and prayer?
4. How can you, as a group, encourage each other to stick with these habits?

## **Grow Broader in MINISTRY with One Another**

Spend 5 to 10 minutes talking about how your ministry together as a group can reflect your collective passions.

- Who, within our group, might have a need we can meet together?
- How can we, as a group, serve together in the next three to four weeks?

## **Grow Larger through EVANGELISM by Including Others**

Spend just a few minutes praying for people far from God and talking about how to reach them.

- Who can we pray for, as a group, that needs to know Jesus?
- Who could we invite and include that isn't in a group now?

## **Grow Stronger in WORSHIP with One Another**

Spend 10 minutes or so expressing needs, sharing victories, and praying. Never pressure anyone to pray out loud, but always offer the opportunity for whoever wishes to do so.

- Share stories of how God has answered prayer, either for yourself or as you have prayed for other people.
- Praise God as a group for these answers.
- Pray together for any needs the group expresses. Invite several people pray, but don't require anyone to pray out loud who isn't comfortable.