



## What is a GROW Group?

At OCC our vision is to see everyone, everywhere – experience and be transformed by the love of God. And GROUPS are critical to the vision as this is *where* church happens. Here people are living out, growing and practicing their faith in community with one another.

**GROW GROUPS** are groups of **4-10 people** who gather online or in person **weekly for 90 minutes** to connect, pray, and study the Bible together. These could be made up of your family members, roommates, a circle of friends or even coworkers. It could be your nearby neighbors, folks you know at OCC or some OCCers you’ve never met before!

Regardless of who you are in a group with - the goal is the same... to GROW in community.

1. GROW in connection with & care for ONE ANOTHER.
2. GROW in intimacy with JESUS and His Word.
3. GROW in responsiveness to Jesus’ mission of LOVE.

## What is the SCHEDULE?

Grow Groups during the BELONG series will meet weekly for **7 weeks from Sept. 25 - Nov. 12th**. These groups could evolve into a regular ongoing group, but it is completely up to you and the members if you wish to continue. **You get to pick the day & time your group meets!**

## What is the TOPIC?

The content being covered for this particular group is on “Everyday Practices for Purposeful Living”, useful practices and tools to help us grow as followers of Jesus and have impact for His kingdom. The weekly bible study will coincide with a practical tool that groups members can use to incorporate intentional practices into their everyday lives.

## What is the FORMAT?

GROW groups follow a **Discovery Based method** of reading and studying Scripture. In this particular format, there is not an “expert” or teacher, but your role is more of a facilitator, allowing everyone the opportunity to learn and discover God’s truths from the source Himself. This method is very simple and easy to apply and reproduce!

Here are a couple of quick videos which explain the basic format of the Discovery Bible Study Method. We also have a complete facilitation guide on the next pages all ready for you!

- “Disciple Making Movements” – 4 min ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))
- “Discovery Bible Reading” – 4 min ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))

# GROW GROUP FACILITATION GUIDE

## WEEK 1 (10/2): LISTEN & OBEY

### Connect // (25 min)

Connect with one another. Celebrate and share burdens together by asking...

- ✓ What are you feeling grateful for this week?
- ✓ Ask if anyone has a need or knows of anyone with a need?
- ✓ Pray over any needs/concerns that come up.

### Read // (5 min)

Listen to what the passage has to say....

- ✓ Ask someone to read **I Samuel 3**
- ✓ Ask someone to re-read the passage perhaps in another version.
- ✓ Ask someone to re-tell the passage in everyday words or do as a whole group.

### Observe // (30 min)

Discover together what the Scripture is saying regarding *listening and obeying*. Resist the urge to teach. Ask these questions...

- ✓ What got your attention? Any words or phrases that stood out?
- ✓ What do we discover about God in this passage?
- ✓ What can we learn from **Samuel** in this passage?
- ✓ What do we learn about **listening & obeying** from this passage?

### Apply // (10 min)

Share how God is asking us to **apply** these learnings to everyday life by asking these questions...

- ✓ What is God saying to you personally from this passage regarding **listening & obeying?**
- ✓ What are you going to do about it? Ask everyone to create & share an **“I will”** statement for the week. (Ex. “I will commit to...”)

Encourage **SMART** statements. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timebound)

- ✓ Who is someone you can share what you’ve learned with this week?

### PRAY & WRAP UP// (5 min)

- ✓ Encourage everyone to read through the “Listen & Obey” practice card and practice listening and obeying throughout their week.
- ✓ Pray as a group to wrap up.
- ✓ Send the “I will” statements out to the group after the meeting to help keep everyone accountable!

## WEEK 2 (10/9): DEVELOP WEEKLY RHYTHMS

\*\*Rotate facilitation in your group as much as possible!\*\*

### Connect // (25 min)

Connect with one another!

- ✓ Do a general check in (how everyone is doing, any prayer needs, etc)
- ✓ Ask “In what ways did you hear the Lord speak to you this week?”
- ✓ Ask “In what ways was this exercise easy? What did you find most challenging?” Encourage folks to share a story from their experience.

### Read // (5 min)

Listen to what the weekly passage of Scripture has to say, follow these steps...

- ✓ Ask someone to read **Psalm 119:97-104**.
- ✓ Ask someone to re-read the passage perhaps in another version.
- ✓ Ask someone to re-tell the passage in everyday words or do as a whole group.

### Observe // (30 min)

Discover together what the Scripture is saying regarding our weekly rhythms. Resist the urge to teach.

Ask these questions...

- ✓ What got your attention? Any words or phrases that stood out?
- ✓ What do we discover about God in this passage?
- ✓ What can we learn through **David** in this passage?
- ✓ What do we learn about weekly rhythms from this passage?

### Apply // (10 min)

Share how God is asking you to **apply** these learnings to everyday life by asking these questions...

- ✓ What is God saying to you personally from this passage regarding **your own weekly rhythms**?
- ✓ What are you going to do about it? Ask everyone to create & share an “**I will**” statement for the week. (Ex. “I will commit to...”)

Encourage **SMART** statements. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timebound)

- ✓ Who is someone you can share what you’ve learned with this week?

### PRAY & WRAP UP // (5 min)

- ✓ Encourage everyone to read through the “Develop Weekly Rhythms” practice card and put into practice some of those rhythms throughout their week.
- ✓ Pray as a group to wrap up.
- ✓ Send the “I will” statements out to the group after the meeting to help keep everyone accountable!

## WEEK 3 (10/16): PRIORITIZE COMMUNITY

**\*\*Rotate facilitation in your group as much as possible!!\*\***

### **Connect // (25 min)**

Connect with one another!

- ✓ Do a general check in (how everyone is doing, any prayer needs, etc.)
- ✓ Ask “How was your experiences incorporating rhythms into your week?”
- ✓ Ask “Did you find it easy? What did you find most challenging?” Encourage folks to share a story from their experience.

### **Read // (5 min)**

Listen to what the weekly passage of Scripture has to say, follow these steps...

- ✓ Ask someone to read **Genesis 18:1-8.**
- ✓ Ask someone to re-read the passage perhaps in another version.
- ✓ Ask someone to re-tell the passage in everyday words or do as a whole group.

### **Observe // (30 min)**

Discover together what the Scripture is saying regarding hospitality & prioritizing community. Resist the urge to teach. Ask these questions...

- ✓ What got your attention? Any words or phrases that stood out?
- ✓ What do we discover about God in this passage?
- ✓ What can we learn through **Abraham** in this passage?
- ✓ What do we learn about **hospitality and community** from this passage?

### **Apply // (10 min)**

Share how God is asking you to **apply** these learnings to everyday life by asking these questions...

- ✓ What is God saying to you personally from this passage regarding **hospitality and community?**
- ✓ What are you going to do about it? Ask everyone to create & share an “**I will**” statement for the week. (Ex. “I will commit to...”)

Encourage **SMART** statements. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timebound)

- ✓ Who is someone you can share what you’ve learned with this week?

### **PRAY & WRAP UP// (5 min)**

- ✓ Encourage everyone to read through the “Prioritize Community” practice card and seek to find ways to build in community throughout their week.
- ✓ Pray as a group to wrap up.
- ✓ Send the “I will” statements out to the group after the meeting to help keep everyone accountable!

## WEEK 4 (10/23): GROW IN GENEROSITY

\*\*Rotate facilitation in your group as much as possible!!\*\*

### Connect // (25 min)

Connect with one another!

- ✓ Do a general check in (how everyone is doing, any prayer needs, etc.)
- ✓ Ask, "What were your experiences with building community into your week?"
- ✓ Ask, "Did you find it easy? What did you find most challenging?" Encourage folks to share a story from their experience.

### Read // (5 min)

Listen to what the weekly passage of Scripture has to say, follow these steps...

- ✓ Ask someone to read **I Kings 17:7-16.**
- ✓ Ask someone to re-read the passage perhaps in another version.
- ✓ Ask someone to re-tell the passage in everyday words or do as a whole group.

### Observe // (30 min)

Discover together what the Scripture is saying regarding growing in generosity. Resist the urge to teach. Ask these questions...

- ✓ What got your attention? Any words or phrases that stood out?
- ✓ What do we discover about God in this passage?
- ✓ What can we learn through **the Widow at Zarephath.** in this passage?
- ✓ What do we learn about **generosity** from this passage?

### Apply // (10 min)

Share how God is asking you to **apply** these learnings to everyday life by asking these questions...

- ✓ What is God saying to you personally from this passage regarding **growing in your generosity?**
- ✓ What are you going to do about it? Ask everyone to create & share an **"I will"** statement for the week. (Ex. "I will commit to...")

Encourage **SMART** statements. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timebound)

- ✓ Who is someone you can share what you've learned with this week?

### PRAY & WRAP UP // (5 min)

- ✓ Encourage everyone to read through the "Grow in Generosity" practice card and seek to find a way(s) to practice generosity throughout their week.
- ✓ Pray as a group to wrap up.
- ✓ Send the "I will" statements out to the group after the meeting to help keep everyone accountable!

## WEEK 5 (10/30): INVEST IN OTHERS

\*\*Rotate facilitation in your group as much as possible!\*\*

### Connect // (25 min)

Connect with one another!

- ✓ Do a general check in (how everyone is doing, any prayer needs, etc.)
- ✓ Ask, "What were some ways that you grew in generosity this past week?"
- ✓ Ask "Did you find it easy? What did you find most challenging?" Encourage folks to share a story from their experience.

### Read // (5 min)

Listen to what the weekly passage of Scripture has to say, follow these steps...

- ✓ Ask someone to read Exodus 18:13-25.
- ✓ Ask someone to re-read the passage perhaps in another version.
- ✓ Ask someone to re-tell the passage in everyday words or do as a whole group.

### Observe // (30 min)

Discover together what the Scripture is saying regarding investing in others. Resist the urge to teach.

Ask these questions...

- ✓ What got your attention? Any words or phrases that stood out?
- ✓ What do we discover about God in this passage?
- ✓ What can we learn through Moses and Jethro in this passage?
- ✓ What do we learn about investing in others from this passage?

### Apply // (10 min)

Share how God is asking you to **apply** these learnings to everyday life by asking these questions...

- ✓ What is God saying to you personally from this passage regarding **investing in others**?
- ✓ What are you going to do about it? Ask everyone to create & share an "I will" statement for the week. (Ex. "I will commit to...")

Encourage **SMART** statements. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timebound)

- ✓ Who is someone you can share what you've learned with this week?

### PRAY & WRAP UP // (5 min)

- ✓ Encourage everyone to read through the "Invest in Others" practice card and seek to find ways to put this into practice throughout their week.
- ✓ Pray as a group to wrap up.
- ✓ Send the "I will" statements out to the group after the meeting to help keep everyone accountable!

## WEEK 6 (11/6): JOIN THE MISSION

\*\*Rotate facilitation in your group as much as possible!!\*\*

### Connect // (25 min)

Connect with one another!

- ✓ Do a general check in (how everyone is doing, any prayer needs, etc.)
- ✓ Ask “How was your experiences with reaching out to others?”
- ✓ Ask “Did you find it easy? What did you find most challenging?” Encourage folks to share a story from their experience.

### Read // (5 min)

Listen to what the weekly passage of Scripture has to say, follow these steps...

- ✓ Ask someone to read **Genesis 12:1-9**.
- ✓ Ask someone to re-read the passage perhaps in another version.
- ✓ Ask someone to re-tell the passage in everyday words or do as a whole group.

### Observe // (30 min)

Discover together what the Scripture is saying regarding join the mission. Resist the urge to teach. Ask these questions...

- ✓ What got your attention? Any words or phrases that stood out?
- ✓ What do we discover about God in this passage?
- ✓ What can we learn through **Abraham** in this passage?
- ✓ What do we learn about **joining the mission** from this passage?

### Apply // (10 min)

Share how God is asking to **apply** these learnings to everyday life by asking these questions...

- ✓ What is God saying to you personally from this passage regarding **joining the mission?**
- ✓ What are you going to do about it? Ask everyone to create & share an “**I will**” statement for the week. (Ex. “I will commit to...”)

Encourage **SMART** statements. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timebound)

- ✓ Who is someone you can share what you’ve learned with this week?

### PRAY & WRAP UP// (5 min)

- ✓ Encourage everyone to read through the “Join the Mission” practice card and seek to find ways to put it into practice throughout their week.
- ✓ Pray as a group to wrap up.
- ✓ Send the “I will” statements out to the group after the meeting to help keep everyone accountable!

# GROW GROUP GUIDE – IDEAS BY WEEK

## Intro Week // New Connections.

- Open this week with introductions, especially for those who are new to the group.
- Have everyone share a bit about themselves: Name, neighborhood, connection (if any) to OCC, why they joined the group.
- Keep this week very relational. Make sure every voice is invited and heard.

## Week 1 // Set the tone.

- Continue getting to know each other.
- Start thinking of who you could ask to facilitate next week. Normalizing shared leadership is our value!

## Weeks 2-5 // Settling in & Sharing the Load.

- Rotate people within the group using the guide to facilitate the group time. Multiply leadership!

## Week 6 // Finish strong.

- First, thank YOU for honoring YOUR commitment! Seriously, thank you.
- Thank the group for their commitment. Talk about next steps from here. Do people want to continue? Some may. Some may not – that’s okay. You may. You may not – that’s okay too!
- Let Pastor Laura know of the groups desire.
- See if anyone would want to start their own GROW group and connect them with Pastor Laura.
- Consider organizing a group celebration get-together!

## FACILITATION TIPS //

- Avoid the temptation for you or anyone to be the teacher or expert! Removing the dynamic of “experts” fosters participation. Rotate facilitation each week.
- Allow everyone an opportunity to share what they are learning, even if you have to call on people to share. For families: Let your youngest share first!
- Encourage everyone to only share revelation from the specific passage you are studying. Avoid bringing in prior knowledge from past sermons, podcasts, books, commentaries, etc. For those with lots of Bible knowledge this is going to be a challenge!
- Seek to honor one another’s time by starting and finishing on time. In order to do this, encourage people to give their answers in “sentences, not paragraphs.”

## SUPPORT //

- Group Leader Resource Page: [www.occ.org/group-leaders](http://www.occ.org/group-leaders)
- Groups Pastor: Laura Abelarde, [LauraA@occ.org](mailto:LauraA@occ.org)