



HOMEGROUP GUIDE

For the week of January 15, 2023



HOME GROUP GUIDELINES

FOR US TO HAVE HEALTHY AND SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Confidentiality & Safety: What's said in the group stays in the group. This is a safe group.

Listening: Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you will respond or what you will say next.

Pausing: Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares to give the person sharing a chance to finish and allow the group to consider what was shared before responding.

Silence: It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or question being considered.

No Cross Talk: Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.

No Fixing: We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that. Give encouragement, speak truth, and point to Jesus. Don't try to fix each other.

No Rescuing: When people share something deeply personal, they tend to feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing. Resist the temptation to rescue people.

Sharing: Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.

"I" Statements: It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "they," "the church," "us," "we," etc.

Household Rules: We appreciate those who open their home up to a Home Group and out of respect to them we need to... (e.g., take shoes off, clean up toys afterward, put chairs back, leave by 8 pm, etc.)

Conflict: As humans, we will need to extend grace to one another. Conflict is not bad, but an opportunity for growth. We are all being changed to be more like Jesus so conflict and change are part of the journey. Here are some key scriptures to refer to:

- If someone sins against you. (Matthew 18:15-20)
- Restoring someone in sin. (Galatians 6:1-5)
- Forgive a sinner. (Colossians 3:12-13)
- Reconciling differences. (Matthew 5:23-24)

HABITS: Stop

Pray: Ask someone to pray to start the group.

Vision & Mission: *Share the vision & mission of RLM with your group.*

VISION: *Reaching the world for Jesus, one person at a time.*

MISSION: *Creating Biblical disciples in relational environments.*

Guidelines: *Read and/or discuss the HG guidelines (see above).*

Spend time at the beginning of your conversation tonight asking how people are doing with Jesus. (Before we dive into the conversation about this week's topic, we want to help those in our groups to abide in Jesus. John 15:5)

Questions to ask:

- How are you doing with Jesus this week?
- What has Jesus been saying to you?
- What has your time with Jesus been like lately?

Head Questions:

Choose people in the group to read the following aloud: **Romans 6:1-14**

- **Take time to read these verses.** *(It's okay to take time on this. Don't rush it.)*
- **Ask your group what stands out. What observations do you have? What are you challenged by?**

Heart Questions

Your values and your habits reveal the condition of your heart when it comes to sin.

- Based on who you are and who you want to become, what is a habit that leads to sin that you need to break? *(This question should dig deep in the heart of the group. Don't move too quickly past this.)*

Hands Questions: Ask what is the next step you need to take?

Take-Home: How we overcome sin.

- **New Status** - Confess your sin
 - 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
- **New Family** - Get connected
 - Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
- **New Humanity & Future** - Make it Hard to Do, Start Anew
 - Avoid Triggers: Proverbs 4:14 Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evildoers. 15 Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way.