

May God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen. (Galatians 1:3-5)

I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. (Galatians 1:6)

You already know these things, dear friends. So be on guard then you will not be carried away ... Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:17-18)

Religion is something you do, Jesus is someone you get to know.

You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life. (John 5:39-40)

Religion demands external duties, grace causes internal desire.

We love each other because He loved us first. (1 John 4:19)

A relationship is built on love.

If you love me, you will obey my commandments. (John 14:15)

A relationship grows by grace.

All they knew was that people were saying, "The one who used to persecute us is no preaching the very faith he tried to destroy!" And they praised God because of me. (Galatians 1:23-24)

A relationship is blessed by the right daily choices.

This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life. (Deuteronomy 30:19)

Icebreaker (Choose 1 or more to get the conversation going)

1. Do you have a green thumb? What is your favorite plant to grow?
2. What is the hardest book of the Bible to read?

Application Questions: (Choose 3 or more to discuss)

1. **Read Galatians 1.** Discuss anything specific that stuck out to you. Engage conversation about what God is showing each LG member.
2. **13-pound baby.** What's the story of your conversion to Christ? Where have you seen the most growth in your walk with Christ?
3. **Read 2 Peter 3:17-18.** Where do you need to grow up? What in your faith journey feels like a requirement rather than an opportunity?
4. **Hot water frogs.** (*A frog dropped in hot water jumps out, a frog placed in a pot with cool water that is brought to a boil will sit in the pot until they're dead*) What is going on in your life right now that is slowly killing your relationship with God?
5. **Read John 5:39-40.** How does this contrast with your personal view of growth? (*open your conversation up to allow people to dialogue about their views of what Spiritual growth looks like*)
6. **Relationship pressure.** Where are you keeping score in your relationships? How is that affecting those relationships? What relationship in your life has the most pressure on it right now?
7. **Relationships growing by grace.** How are you doing on encouraging and praising your relationships? What can you practically do this week to shine the spotlight on the people you care about most? What can you practically do this week to shine the spotlight on the people who can't stand in your life?
8. **The right daily choices.** End your LG with a time of prayer and reflection on what needs to be shifted in each LG members daily choices to grow closer to Christ.