

one groups

Conversation Guide

I WITNESS

STORIES OF THE RISEN JESUS



BRENTVIEW

Est. 1962

SUGGESTED MEETING FLOW

Total Meeting Time: 1hr 45mins (*Times included below as an example*)

Time	Activity	Purpose
20 Mins 6pm - 6:20pm	Hang out, serve food, settle kids in [if relevant]	Enjoy time together!
5 Mins 6:20pm - 6:25pm	While still eating, gather together. Open with a brief welcome from the One Group Leader and spend time opening in prayer. <i>[If anyone is new, make sure everyone says their name, etc.]</i>	An important transition. Prayer and choosing an intentional posture to step into the “formal” part of the meeting is going to make the time meaningful.
10 Mins 6:25pm - 6:35pm	Question for conversation: What are you looking forward to this upcoming summer?	This helps us to remember the value of having fun together!
35 Mins 6:35pm - 7:10pm	Sermon-Based Conversation <i>See Guide Below</i>	Each week we will explore core ideas from the previous sermon.
20 Mins 7:10pm - 7:30pm	The Prayer Practice of Examen (see guide) Pray together: Invite one or two people to pray over what was named in the discussion, for the group as a whole, and for the broader Brentview family.	This helps us set a tone for our group. We are stepping into brave spaces of authenticity together. Prayer is a key element to what makes a One Group more than a socializing event.
15 Mins 7:30pm - 7:45pm	Hang out, eat left over food and/or dessert. Make sure to help with clean-up!	Fun matters. Enjoy time together.



SERMON-BASED CONVERSATION & FORMATION

I Witness #2 - Which Story?

Briefly Debrief the Spiritual Practice (5 mins)

Take a brief moment to allow people to share about their experiences with the previous week's practice. If you didn't engage, no reason to feel bad. This is an optional practice for those wanting something to incorporate into their devotional lives each week.

Review (5 mins)

Take a moment to remember the main ideas from the message. Use the notes as a refresher.

Main Idea: "The story you tell about yourself influences everything you do."

- **Summary:** Peter denied Jesus 3 times. Jesus restored him, 3 times. This was intentional by Jesus to empower Peter to do the kingdom work ahead of him: 1) feed my sheep, 2) follow me. His inward story wasn't going to be defined by his worst moment, but by the love of Jesus and his mission to the world.

Sub Points (God is near even when he seems far.)

- Jesus helps us to re-narrate our story.
- "Follow me" is an invitation to humble significance.
 - ➔ Humble: confidence without arrogance
 - ➔ Significance: something that matters beyond yourself, for the sake of others and on mission with Jesus.
- Comparison is sometimes a symptom of a deficient story.
- "We are shaped by our stories. In fact, our stories, once in place, determine much of our behavior without regard to their accuracy or helpfulness. Once these stories are stored in our minds, they stay there largely unchallenged until we die. And here is the main point: these narratives are running (and often ruining) our lives. That is why it is crucial to get the right narratives." - James Bryan Smith, *The Good and Beautiful God*, 25
- **Application:** Which story is running your life?
 - ➔ Identify it.
 - ➔ Notice recent examples.
 - ➔ Invite Jesus to re-narrate.

Read the Scriptures Together (10 mins)

Read each passage aloud as a group in a posture of prayer. Then, read them twice more.
As you hear the passages, notice a word or phrase that makes an impact on you.

15 When they finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"
Simon replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you."
Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

16 Jesus asked a second time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"
Simon replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you."
Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep."

17 He asked a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"
Peter was sad that Jesus asked him a third time, "Do you love me?" He replied, "Lord, you know everything; you know I love you."
Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

18 I assure you that when you were younger you tied your own belt and walked around wherever you wanted. When you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and another will tie your belt and lead you where you don't want to go." 19 He said this to show the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. After saying this, Jesus said to Peter, "Follow me."

20a Peter turned around and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them....

21 When Peter saw this disciple, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?"

22 Jesus replied, "If I want him to remain until I come, what difference does that make to you? You must follow me."

(John 21:15–21a, 22 - CEB)

Conversation (15 mins)

(It's okay if you only make it through one or two of these questions. The point is that we want to have spiritual conversations that both challenge and invite us to follow Jesus, seek the Spirit, and experience the Father's compassion.)

#1 Invite a couple of people to share about a word, phrase, or idea that made an impact on them. What might God be inviting you to notice about your own life, in light of this?

#2 What "stories" do you think people in our day and age struggle with? What are the ideas we sometimes allow to linger in our hearts and minds that Jesus wants to heal? (For instance, shame that says "I'll never be good enough.")

#3 How does following Jesus open us up to the possibility of humble significance? (See the sermon notes) Do you have "stories" that live in your heart and mind that make that idea hard for you to accept about yourself? Does comparison ever hold you back?

#4 What do you sense Jesus is inviting you to consider when it comes to our conversation so far? (In our prayer time, we will have a chance to listen to God even more.)

The Practice of Examen and Prayer (20 mins)

Take 5 mins of silence together. Reflect on the past several days and/or week.

- * Invite the Holy Spirit to guide you in the silence, as you reflect back on your week.
- * Offer gratitude to Jesus for whatever has brought you joy recently. Can you think of 3 things you are grateful for in this moment?
- * Review the past week. What has been “life-draining?” What has been “life-giving?”
- * Ask Jesus to help you see him at work in the highs and lows you encounter.

Helpful Things to Note:

- * *Life-giving: I sense that God has been at work in my family....*
- * *Life-draining: I have a friend at work who just lost her husband....)*
- * A solid group response when real needs arise: “How can we help?”

Dialogue

What is one thing Jesus is inviting you to notice based on our conversation today?
Is there a “life-draining” or “life-giving” area of your life that you’d like to share with the group?

Remember: “How can we help?” is a great question when appropriate.

Pray Together

Invite one or two people to pray over what was named in the discussion, for the group as a whole, and for the broader Brentview family.

TAKE-HOME FORMATION EXERCISE

Meditate on the following passage. Read it slowly and prayerfully.

Read the story of Peter denying Jesus 3 times. Ponder it. Read it a second time. (John 18:15-27)

Then read the story of Jesus restoring Peter. Ponder it. Read it a second time. (John 21:15–22)

Prompts for Reflection:

What phrase makes an immediate impact on you? Meditate on it with Jesus.

What is God inviting you to notice about your life? Pray and journal about this.

[Space for Journaling and/or Notes]

WHERE ARE WE IN THE CURRENT GROUPS RHYTHM?

- Summer Quarter: this is a season of rest for our groups.
- At the start of each quarter, we all gather at the church for a Groups Launch Party!
- Each quarter is about 11 weeks long
- Each Group meets once per week. While Wednesday is a great choice for a weekly Group, we know that some will choose to meet on other days.

WHAT HAPPENS WEEK-BY-WEEK (BIG PICTURE)?

- **WEEK 1:** Church-wide Groups Launch Party! (Wednesday night, 7pm)
- **WEEK 2:** First meeting as a group, likely in a home (but not limited to this). Review shared commitments which will be finalized in week 3. This includes, but isn't limited to, your group's involvement in the current FOR Calgary initiative.
- **WEEK 3:** Finalize Shared Commitments. (See Attached)
- **WEEKS 4-10:** Do life together! Meet weekly, utilizing the materials provided—for One Groups, this is sermon-based discussion, etc.
- **WEEK 11:** Reflect on the last 10 weeks. Engage in sermon-based conversation. Fill out One Group reflection sheets. Put the following Quarter on the calendar!
- **BETWEEN QUARTERS:** At Brentview, we highly value margin in the calendar. We create clear and predictable rhythms for our Groups so that they are highly accessible and deeply intentional. Also, more margin means that your group can “organically” create times for having fun together. How will you all continue to be in relationship during the gaps in Quarters? Meals, parties, outings, movies, kids play-dates, etc. are some ideas to start with! The December break, for instance, creates a great opportunity for Christmas parties, walking with a hot drink to look at lights, etc.