

one groups

Conversation Guide

THE FINAL WORDS
OF JESUS ON THE CROSS

Last
Words



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 is one of your favourite family memories?	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

Last Words #3 - Family

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.

What Makes for a Vibrant Household?

Barna



- Spends fun, quality time together
- A spiritual coach is present
- Welcomes others
- Asks for help
- Members have a personal spirituality

Main Idea: “There is no ME apart from WE.”

•**Summary:** Jesus invites us to bring vibrancy to two (in ideal situations) interlocking families: our home and “church” (or kingdom) families.

Sub Points (There is no ME apart from WE.)

•Jesus takes care of his family by pointing to a new one.

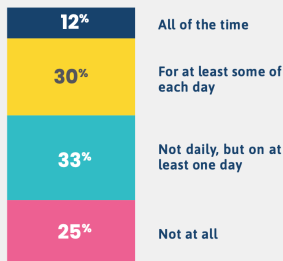
•Both families—home & church—have challenges. WE takes work.

Application: Take home question.

•What part of ME needs growth for the sake of the WE in my life?

LONELINESS IS A DAILY EXPERIENCE ...

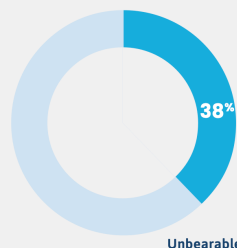
Think back on your past 7 days. How often would you say you felt lonely?



... THAT TENDS TO BE UNBEARABLE

How painful would you say your feelings of loneliness were?

Base: those who said they feel lonely at least weekly



WHAT TYPES OF SUPPORT DO YOU MOST NEED FROM YOUR CHURCH THIS WEEK?



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.***

25 Jesus' mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross. 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

(John 19:25-27, Common English Bible)

31 His mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside and sent word to him, calling for him. 32 A crowd was seated around him, and those sent to him said, "Look, your mother, brothers, and sisters are outside looking for you."

33 He replied, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" 34 Looking around at those seated around him in a circle, he said, "Look, here are my mother and my brothers. 35 Whoever does God's will is my brother, sister, and mother."

(Mark 3:31-35, Common English Bible)

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 Review the image above with the characteristics of a Vibrant Household. What might this look like "in action" at your home? Can you imagine these sorts of characteristics playing themselves out at church / in our One Group? How?

#3 How do you relate to the survey about "what you need from your church this week?" Do you find yourself resonating with any of those responses? Which ones?

#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.
Notice if God brings anything to mind.

6 Well then, we have gifts that differ in accordance with the grace that has been given to us, and we must use them appropriately. If it is prophecy, we must prophesy according to the pattern of the faith. 7 If it is serving, we must work at our serving; if teaching, at our teaching; 8 if exhortation, at our exhortation; if giving, with generosity; if leading, with energy; if doing acts of kindness, with cheerfulness.

9 Love must be real. Hate what is evil, stick fast to what is good. 10 Be truly affectionate in showing love for one another; compete with each other in giving mutual respect.

11 Don't get tired of working hard. Be on fire with the spirit. Work as slaves for the Lord.

12 Celebrate your hope; be patient in suffering; give constant energy to prayer;

13 contribute to the needs of God's people; make sure you are hospitable to strangers.

Romans 12:6-13

Kingdom New Testament (New Testament for Everyone)

Prompts for Reflection:

What phrase in the passage makes an immediate impact on you?

Meditate on this phrase with Jesus.

What do you believe God has gifted you to uniquely bring to your home and church family?

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.