



Group Priorities (Rhythms)

Discipleship Orientation—Actively Following Jesus. We commit not just to simple belief in Jesus (i.e. as observers or fans), but rather to following Jesus actively as his disciples who have given our whole lives to Jesus, having exchanged our sin for his righteousness so that we might be restored in relationship with God and live in newness of life with our love for Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit leading our every word, thought, motive and deed. Additionally, we reaffirm our Grace Point Mission Partner commitment to follow Jesus by intentionally living out the G5 Mission Measure of: Grace, Growth, Gifts, Give, and Go.

James 1:21-22 - 21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

- Putting away sinful patterns as expression of Discipleship Orientation and actively following Jesus.
- Not being an observer or fan of Jesus, but active in following Jesus
- Authority of the Bible (implanted word able to save your souls)

1 Jn 2:3-5 - 3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.

- We only can claim to know him if we are active in obeying his commands

2 Cor. 10:5 - We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Eph 4:29 - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Col. 3:17 - And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- We are to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.
- No corrupting talk, only speaking that which builds up; two commitments that speak to actively pursuing Jesus with our language and speech.
- Doing everything we do in the name of the Lord

We affirm the Bible as our ultimate authority and guide for knowing and following Jesus. We regularly pursue time in the Scriptures both individually and as a group so we might know God deeply and so we would better live out his will for our lives. We also look to the

church, its pastors, and the other leaders affirmed by the church to help us along in our shared commitment to uncommon life in Jesus.

2 Tim. 3:16-17 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Rom. 15:4 - 4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

- The authority of Scripture in our lives for EVERY good work
- The authority of Scripture in our lives as our primary source of instruction, encouragement and hope.

One Anothering. The Bible is clear about the kind of life Jesus wants us, his followers, to live. These instructions are given by Scripture not only to fulfill God's purposes for our lives but also for our own joy. Therefore, our group pursues the regular practice of: caring for one another, encouraging one another, confessing our sins to one another, worshipping God with one another, teaching one another, praying with one another, studying God's Word with one another, forgiving one another, bearing one another's burdens, and serving one another & the church.

James 5:16 - 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed

Col. 3:16 - 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

- Confessing our sins to one another, yields healing! Praying for one another, yields healing! Both are commands of scripture for God's people
- Teaching and admonishing one another—godly activity we're called to as disciples.
- Worshipping God together with one another in thankfulness and song.

Progress Not Perfection. Each person in our group affirms a commitment to "progress not perfection". According to Scripture we're all "works in progress" only having the first fruits of the Holy Spirit's work accomplished in us at present. Therefore, knowingly and unknowingly we still sin despite our best efforts to put sin to death in our lives. We are finite and imperfect and we will be so until Jesus returns. Therefore, if we are in Christ then he has had to forgive much in us. As imperfect Christians then, we must in turn be patient with the other imperfect Christians in our groups, knowing that we are just as broken, just as in need of Jesus as each person that joins us in our group meeting each week. What we ask of our fellow group members is, therefore, a commitment to active, ongoing, and intentional progress in their journey with Jesus. To ask more from those in our groups is to ask them for perfection, which we can't offer to them either.

Eph 4:32 - Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Col. 3:12-13 - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Hebrews 10:14 - For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

- Humility, meekness, bearing with one another, forgiving complaints against one another; being patient and compassionate with one another
- Because we are "being sanctified" we must be patient with one another

Knowing Others & Being Known. We're convinced by Scripture and experience that Spirit-driven life change happens best in the context of biblical community (i.e. Christ-centered relationships). Therefore, our group "leans in" to the messiness of group life by intentionally encouraging a biblically-informed group culture of *humility, transparent sharing* of our lives with one another, *loving accountability* and *gentle correction*. We facilitate this by giving the others in our group *permission to speak truth* into our lives—from day one, and increasingly as time goes on. In order to nurture this kind of group culture, *confidentiality* is affirmed as a critical group value. What's said in the group stays in the group.

1John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin

Eph. 4:14-15 - 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

Eph. 4:25 - Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Prov. 27:17 - Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

Prov. 15:22 - 22 Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

Prov. 11:14 - 14 Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

- put off falsehood and speak truth to one another in love
- speak truth to one another in love so that we would not be deceived
- iron sharpening iron as the messiness of doing life together in pursuit of Christ
- wisdom in many counselors, in giving permission to speak truth in each other's lives

Weekly Connection. In order to accomplish the other valued priorities of group life we *commit to weekly life group meetings*. We understand that "life happens", so grace and understanding are the rule. At the same time, by committing to weekly connection times (usually at least two hours in length each week) we are affirming the reality that

each one of us really does need other committed Christ followers consistently involved in our lives if we expect to continue growing toward full devotion to Jesus Christ. For these reasons, and for the benefit of ourselves and the other members of our Life Group we covenant together as those who are willing to **a)** commit to meeting weekly, with **b)** confidence that our attendance/participation will regularly exceed 75%.

Heb. 10:23-25 - 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Heb. 3:13 - But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Acts 2:42-44, 46 - 42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common...46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

- Hold fast to meeting together regularly to spur one another on to godliness and "all the more" so as we see the day drawing near.
- 3:13 on encouraging one another daily that sin's effects would not harden our hearts—speaks to doing life together even more than just on our regular meeting times
- exhort/hold one another accountable daily—toward the end of meeting even more than weekly
- continually devoting; all things in common; meeting in home; having meals together with gladness...continually