

P.E.A.C.E. Groups

Prayer—Evangelism—Apprenticing—Christ-study—Encouragement

P.E.A.C.E. *Groups*

P.E.A.C.E. Groups Mission Statement:

"The mission of Prince of Peace's Adult Ministries is
To REACH adults with the Good News of Jesus Christ,
To GROW them as His disciples, and to equip them
To SERVE God and one another."

P.E.A.C.E. Groups Vision:

"To be an ever-expanding network of leaders, who create an ever-expanding number of small groups, where people are transformed by Jesus, and together transform the world around them."



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An Introduction to

SESSION TWO—Prayer

- For the closing prayer, ask each member to think of one thing they are thankful for and one thing they would like God's help with.

SESSION THREE—Evangelism

- In the accountability section, what we're looking for is for your members to see that while their primary interests, hopes and dreams have changed radically over the years, Jesus' haven't! He has always been and always will be primarily concerned for those who are "like sheep without a shepherd."

SESSION FOUR—Apprenticing

- Materials—a group prayer journal. (I encourage you to buy one of those blank hardcover books). Use the left side to record prayers each week and the right side to record the answers God gives. Over time, this book will become an amazing testimony to what God has done in and through your group. In weeks to come, take time in you meetings to ask, "Does anyone have any updates on anything we've been praying about?"

SESSION FIVE—Christ-study

- At the next session, you will need to choose a new study, so be sure to listen closely to the suggestions people give in their answer to question seven on the last page of today's study.

SESSION SIX—Encouragement

- Under Pre-Study, it says to review the group covenant. This is a good thing to do at the end of a study. Ask people if they have any additions to make now that you've been meeting for a while.
- Materials—you also need to choose a new Christ-study to begin next time. Be sure to bring with you to this meeting between three and five samples (you can check out samples from the P.G.L. Resource Center). You will also need to bring a copy of the "Kids in the Tree" activity for each member.
- Use the "Kid's in the Tree" as an affirmation exercise. Go around your group and for each person, ask the other members to choose a child in the tree that they think best represents that person, and have them share their reasoning. If all goes well, this will be a GREAT experience for your group!

Welcome to P.E.A.C.E. Groups!

P.E.A.C.E. Groups is the small group ministry of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Palatine, Illinois.

Our model is the example of the early church, as recorded in Acts 2:42-47,

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved".

What an exciting church that must have been to be a part of!

To us, five things really stand out:

- **Prayer**—It wasn't just something they did in passing. They were devoted to it. They believed in the power of prayer!
- **Evangelism**—They understood that the Gospel was such good news, it just had to be shared.
- **Apprenticing**—As the number being saved was daily growing, the need for identifying and raising up more leaders grew as well.
- **Christ-study**—Their goal wasn't to become Bible experts. They understood that the Scriptures were a tool for the real goal of growing in Christ-likeness.
- **Encouragement**—They had "glad and sincere hearts" as they cheered each other on in the walk with Christ through life.

We pray that you will make these five things be the pillars of your new group. God bless you as you do!

An Introduction to P.E.A.C.E. Groups

Session One

PRAYER

- Led by the leader

EVANGELISM

- *An introduction to the “empty chair”...*

The empty chair reminds us of two people:

- **Ice-breaker** . . .

PEACE & Stress Bingo!

APPRENTICING

This is difficult to do in a group meeting. But if there are group members interested in being an apprentice, express your interest to your leader after the meeting. *If not, be assured, one of you will be approached eventually.* ☺

Leader Notes

These sessions are designed to:

- Introduce group members to the “big picture” vision for P.E.A.C.E. Groups
- Provide for consistency between groups so a real network exists
- Make people who are new to small groups comfortable
- Facilitate group interaction and sharing to help the group become a group

A few notes for you as you lead these sessions:

SESSION ONE:

- **Materials:** You will need a copy of the “P.E.A.C.E. and Stress Bingo” game for each member, a prize to give out to the winner, and some 3x5 notecards.
- The open chair reminds us of one person who is present: Jesus (have someone read Matthew 18:20), and one person who isn’t (someone whom God would like us to bring to the group)
- The Pre-Study icebreaker’s are placed in the meeting to foster sharing our lives on a deeper level—helping us know one another better. The goal here is to have fun! Groups that learn to have fun together bond more quickly!
- You will note throughout the opening curriculum that many of the questions have answers provided. This is designed to put everyone on a level playing field. (Beware! The Bible scholars of your group will be frustrated—but that’s o.k.!) Note: be sure to share with your group that there is no right or wrong answer for any of the questions.
- The closing prayer is intentional. Again, it puts everyone on a level playing field. Those who aren’t used to praying out loud can certainly do this. And for those who are used to praying out loud, saying such a brief prayer puts them a little outside their comfort zone too!

3. What do you think keeps you from becoming a more encouraging person?

- Feeling like other people's affairs are none of my business
- I'm too self-absorbed. I don't know what to say that would help.
- I need more encouragement myself. I just don't think about it much.
- Other: _____

How do you think God is trying to encourage you through this story about Elijah?

4. What do you think God is trying to teach you about encouraging others through this story?

5. Who in your life most needs some encouragement from you this week? What could you do/say that would really encourage them?

ENCOURAGEMENT

- Group Prayer Journal (New prayer requests)

*Remember the empty chair!

- Tonight's circle prayer formula:

"Dear God, I want to thank you for _____. Amen"

Your leader will close by praying the special prayer requests

CHRIST-STUDY

Introduction:

What is Christ-study? How does it differ from Bible study? Take a look:

<i>Bible Study</i>	<i>Christ-study</i>
About knowing a book	About knowing a person
Sees the Bible as an end	Sees the Bible as a means to an end
Led by an "expert" leader	Led by a facilitator where everyone's input is of equal value
Growing in knowledge	Growing in Christ-like character
A class you attend	A community that you are
An event	A process

In P.E.A.C.E. Groups, we prefer the term "Christ-study" to "Bible study" because it reminds us of what Jesus warned the Pharisees in John 5:39-40,

"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life."

The reason we study the Scriptures is NOT to become Bible experts. Our goal is to become more like Jesus.

In this beginner course for adult P.E.A.C.E. Groups, the purpose of the Christ-study is to get to know one another, bond as a group, and learn about the mission of the P.E.A.C.E. Groups ministry. In this session, you will take a look at a time when Jesus and His disciples were in a terrible storm—one that caused a lot of stress!

Opening Questions:

- What's the most peaceful moment you've experienced in your life so far?
- What event in your typical week brings you the most stress?

Jesus Calms the Storm—Mark 4:35-41

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took Him with them in the boat, just as He was. And other boats were with Him. ³⁷ And a great storm of wind arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" ³⁹ And He awoke and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" ⁴¹ And they were filled with awe, and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey Him?"

The Story:

1. **Why was Elijah in such despair? (There are several reasons)**
2. **Who was Baal? (Rhymes with "pale") For help, look up Deuteronomy 31:16-18 and Judges 2:10-13.**
3. **Do you think it was wrong for Elijah to pray to die in verse 4? Why or why not?**
4. **What did God do to encourage Elijah when he was so discouraged? (There are several correct answers).**
5. **What do you think God was saying to Elijah through the display of verses 11-12?**

Your Story:

1. **What in your life tends to discourage you the most?**

- Pressure and Stress from work. Lack of close friendships—loneliness
- Guilt over past actions A difficult or frustrating relationship
- Fear of the future Feeling like I haven't achieved my full potential
- Other: _____

2. **On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate yourself as an encourager?**

Opening Questions:

- Who is the most encouraging person you know?
- What specifically does that person do/say that you find so encouraging?

God Encourages Elijah—I Kings 19:1-18

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." 3 Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, 4 while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." 5 Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." 6 He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. 7 The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." 8 So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

9 There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10 He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." 11 The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." 15 The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. 16 Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. 17 Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. 18 Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel--all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him."

The Story:

1. *If you had been with Jesus in the boat when the storm came up, how do you think you would have reacted?*

- Jumped overboard
- Screamed for help
- Started bailing water
- Taken command of the boat
- Prayed
- Yelled at the other disciples

2. *Why do you think Jesus was sleeping?*

- He was tired from a long day of teaching
- He was testing the disciples.
- He was faking it—He wasn't really asleep.
- He was setting an example to the disciples for times of stress.

3. *Why were the disciples so afraid?*

- They didn't have faith in Jesus.
- They had faith, but they had some doubts.
- They didn't fully understand Jesus' powers yet.
- They had forgotten Jesus was with them in the boat.

Your Story:

1. *What brings on most of the "storms" in your life?*

- Work
- Family relationships
- Health problems
- Overwhelming demands
- Loss of a loved one
- Worry about the future
- Fear of failure
- Finances

2. What do you do when “storms” come up in your life?

- Talk to a close friend Withdraw Pray about it
 Get touchy and irritable Panic Act like nothing’s wrong

3. The disciples asked Jesus an interesting question—“Do you not care if we perish?” When was the last time you wondered if God cared about you?

4. What difference does your faith in Jesus make as you encounter “storms” in your life?

- I feel more peace I wish it made more difference. I’d like to grow in that.
 Unfortunately, I tend not to think about it at the time.
 It makes it harder because it raises big questions like, “Doesn’t God care about me?”

5. If you could compare your own life to the storm in this story, where are you right now?

- Smooth sailing I sense a storm is brewing Sinking fast
 Returning to calm again In the middle of a storm, bailing water like mad.

6. What “storm” in your life would you like Jesus to calm?

Write your name on the 3x5 card given to you, along with the request. When everyone is finished, we will exchange cards and pray for each other throughout the week.

An Introduction to P.E.A.C.E. Groups

Session Six—Encouragement

PRAYER

- Led by the leader

EVANGELISM

- Empty Chair

Pre-Study:

- Review the Group Prayer Journal—any updates to give on things we’re praying about?
- Review Group Covenant
- Choose a new study
- **Affirmation Exercise: “Kids in the Tree”**

Closing verses: Read I Corinthians 12:12-27

- What do these verses tell you about you?
- What do they tell you about encouragement?

CHRIST-STUDY

Introduction:

In this beginner course for P.E.A.C.E. Groups, the purpose of the Christ-study is to get to know one another, bond as a group, and learn about the mission of the P.E.A.C.E. Groups ministry. In this final session, you will learn about the fifth part of the P.E.A.C.E. acronym, “Encouragement”, by studying about a scared and discouraged prophet named Elijah.

The Mission Statement for P.E.A.C.E. Groups is:

“The mission of Prince of Peace’s Adult Ministries is
To **REACH** adults with the Good News of Jesus Christ,
To **GROW** them as His disciples, and to equip them
To **SERVE** God and one another.”

6. What Christ-study do you think would be most helpful to you in “developing and practicing the life of discipleship?”

Studying through a book of the Bible verse by verse. Especially the book:

Doing a topical study (Prayer, Witnessing, Doctrines of the church, etc.)

Looking at current social issues from a Biblical perspective (euthanasia, capital punishment, citizenship, helping the poor, etc.)

Studying what God has to say about family issues (Parenting, Marriage, etc.)

Doing a support kind of study (Grief support, Divorce recovery, etc.)

Other:

*Make sure you share your ideas with your leader. Your group will be choosing a new study the next time you meet!

ENCOURAGEMENT

• Group Prayer Journal (New prayer requests) *Remember the empty chair!

• Tonight’s circle prayer formula:

“Dear God, I want to thank you for _____. Amen”

Your leader will close by praying the special prayer requests

ENCOURAGEMENT

Working on our Group Covenant

• Leader:

• Apprentice Leader:

• Goals of our group:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

1. Length of this covenant:

2. Frequency of meetings:

3. Weekday and time of meeting:

4. We will begin at (time) _____ and end no later than

5. We will meet at:

6. Target date for birthing the group:

7. Attendance: We will make this group a priority in our schedules and schedule other things around it. We will make every effort to attend every meeting.
8. Confidentiality: Nothing of a personal nature that is shared in this group will be shared with anyone outside this group. What is said here—stays here.
9. Participation: We will be real and honest in our sharing with each other. We will not pretend to be something we are not. We will not force anyone to share anything they would prefer to keep private. We will love, support, and encourage each other unconditionally no matter what is shared as God has done the same for us.
10. Strategy for filling the empty chair: _____
11. Other expectations: _____
12. Responsibilities for
 - Hosting: _____
 - Food: _____
 - Babysitting: _____
13. Other: _____

Closing:

- Exchange of prayer cards
- Closing circle prayer

Our prayer formula:
 “Dear God, thank you for _____. Amen.”

3. What would you say today if Jesus asked you, “Who do you say I am?”

4. What part of your life would you say is the most Christ-like? What is the least?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> My Work | <input type="checkbox"/> My relationship with my spouse. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My relationship with my kids. | <input type="checkbox"/> My hobbies/interests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My friendships | <input type="checkbox"/> My words |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My thoughts | <input type="checkbox"/> The care of my possessions/wealth. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

5. When you hear Jesus say to deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Him, how do you feel?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Like crawling under a rug | <input type="checkbox"/> A little scared. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very excited | <input type="checkbox"/> Like starting over |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

6. What do denying yourself, taking up your cross and following Jesus mean to you?

- To stop focusing on my own problems so much and think of others.
- To stop worrying and trust God to take care of me.
- To learn to be content with less
- To be willing to suffer for being a Christian
- To engage more of my time in God-pleasing activities.

Other: _____

The Story:

1. **Who did the crowds say Jesus was? (Three answers) Why do you think they thought that?**

(Have someone read Malachi 4:5-6 and Matthew 17:10-13 for help on one of the answers. Read Luke 9:7-9 for help on another.)

*NOTE “Christ” is not a name. It is a title meaning “Anointed One.” Its Hebrew parallel would be the word “Messiah”—the deliverer promised by God in the Old Testament.

2. **Why do you think Jesus warned them not to tell anyone who He was?**
3. **What do you think Jesus means when He says His followers must “take up his cross daily?”**
4. **Explain verse 24 in your own words. Specifically, what does it mean to “lose your life” for Jesus?**

Your Story:

1. **If the typical person in your school, workplace or neighborhood were asked the same question today that Jesus asked His disciples—“Who do you say I am?”—what would they say?**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The founder of a religion. | <input type="checkbox"/> The greatest man who ever lived. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A social revolutionary. | <input type="checkbox"/> A spiritual philosopher and teacher. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My Lord and Savior | <input type="checkbox"/> A swear word |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A mythical figure | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

2. **Who did you think Jesus was when you were 12 years old?**

An Introduction to P.E.A.C.E. Groups

Session Two—Prayer

PRAYER

- Led by the leader

EVANGELISM

- the “empty chair”—which two people are we reminded of?
- Brainstorm—Who would be a good addition to this group?

Pre-Study:

- Finalize Group Covenant & Sign
- Icebreaker activity. . . Questions!
 1. If you could have an opportunity to speak with any living person on the planet, who would you choose? Why?
 2. If you could have the same opportunity with any deceased person, who would you chose? Why?

CHRIST-STUDY

Introduction:

In this beginner course for P.E.A.C.E. Groups, the purpose of the Christ-study is to get to know one another, bond as a group, and learn about the mission of the P.E.A.C.E. Groups ministry. In this session, you will learn about the first part of the P.E.A.C.E. acronym, “Prayer”, by studying how Jesus taught His disciples to pray.

Opening Questions:

- Who taught you how to pray and what prayers did they teach you?
- Have you ever experienced a clear answer to a prayer you prayed?

Jesus Teaches About Prayer—Luke 11:1-13

¹ One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." ² He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.'" ⁵ Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷" Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. ⁹ "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The Story:

1. Why do you think Jesus spent so much of His time praying?

- He & His Father were very close It relieved stress.
- He enjoyed it. He was setting an example for all believers
- It just came naturally for Him. He needed it.

Closing verse: Read Philippians 3:7-8.

- What was the most important thing in the Apostle Paul's life?
- How did the other things in his life compare to that?

CHRIST-STUDY

Introduction:

In this beginner course for P.E.A.C.E. Groups, the purpose of the Christ-study is to get to know one another, bond as a group, and learn about the mission of the P.E.A.C.E. Groups ministry. In this session, you will learn about the fourth part of the P.E.A.C.E. acronym, "Christ-study", by looking at the disciple Peter's great confession of Jesus Christ.

Opening Questions:

- Why do you P.E.A.C.E. Groups prefer the term "Christ-study" to "Bible study?"
- What do you admire about Jesus? In what way would you like to be more like him?

Peter's Confession of Christ—Luke 9:18-25

18 Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?"

19 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."

20 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

21 Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone.

22 And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

25 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?"

An Introduction to P.E.A.C.E. Groups

Session Five—Christ-Study

PRAYER

- Led by the leader

EVANGELISM

- Empty Chair

Pre-Study:

- Review the Group Prayer Journal—any updates to give on things we’re praying about?
- Icebreaker: “Fire Drill!”

Imagine your house has just caught on fire. In your imagination, run through every room in your home and write down the specific items you would try to take. (Assume your kids and pets are safe already). Then, share your answers with your group. What do your answers show that you value?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

2. **Explain in your own words what each of the following phrases of the Lord’s prayer means:**

- Father (Why not just “Hey God”?)
- Hallowed be your name.
- Your kingdom come
- Give us each day our daily bread.
- Forgive us our sins for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
- And lead us not into temptation.

***NOTE: Did you know that “For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.” is not part of the Lord’s prayer as taught by Jesus? Some later manuscripts of the New Testament added these words here, showing that their use in the church is ancient.**

3. **What is the point of Luke 11:5-13?**

- If you bug God enough, He’ll give you anything you want.
- Make sure your neighbor goes grocery shopping regularly.
- Be persistent in your prayers.
- Don’t be afraid to ask God for anything.
- God loves you and therefore hears all your prayers.

Your Story:

1. **When do you tend to pray?**

- First thing in the morning
- In the car
- Before meals
- When I’m stressed out and need to calm down
- When someone I love is sick
- As I’m falling asleep at night

2. What do you find the most difficult about praying?

- Finding the time to do it regularly. Praying out loud.
- Saying what I really feel in my heart. Accepting God's answers and timing.
- Not getting into a rut of always saying the same old things.
- Believing that God is really listening to me.

3. If God promises us so much through prayer, why do you think we tend to neglect it so much?

- Our lives (mine included) are just way too busy.
- Because we're sinners and that's what sinners do.
- We fail to make it a priority.
- We've forgotten how many promises God does give to those who pray.

4. Have you ever gotten mad at God because He didn't answer a prayer the way you wanted Him to? If so, did you ever look back on that answer as a good thing?

5. How did it feel this past week to know that one of your P.E.A.C.E. Group members was praying for you every day?

- Honestly, I didn't really think of it.
- I thought about it a lot and it gave me a lot of peace.
- I'm not sure what affect it had.
- Having my 3x5 card posted kept me more disciplined in my own prayer time.
- It was great! Let's do it more!

6. An important part of prayer is thanking God for His blessings. What blessing are you most thankful to God for these days?

ENCOURAGEMENT

- Introducing our Group Prayer Journal –take prayer requests
- Tonight's circle prayer formula:
 - “Dear God, I want to thank you for _____. Amen”
- Your leader will close by praying the special prayer requests

4. What were the benefits of such a strategy?

- Moses would be less stressed The more the merrier.
- The needs of the people would be met more efficiently.
- Jethro could get some rest from Moses' complaining.

Your Story:

1. How much of Jethro and Moses do you see in yourself? Put a percentage for each—and the two must add up to 100%.

I see myself as _____% Jethro and _____% Moses.

2. With whom do you count on to get things done?

- My spouse My boyfriend/girlfriend
- My parents
- Another family member No one
- A close friend
- Other: _____

3. Why do you think so many people try to do things on their own? What message does the world outside the Kingdom of God send to us?

4. How could or is your life effected when you have a dependable person to pass things off to?

- A recently answered prayer. My family.
- The love of a dear friend A renewal of my faith life.
- My new P.E.A.C.E. Group Other: _____

7. Our reading from Luke 11 also reminds us to “ask and it will be given to you.” What would you most like to ask God for now?

- Healing for a loved one who is sick.
- To give me His guidance in an area of my life.
- The conversion of a friend or relative.
- The courage to turn away from a specific sin.
- For His “peace that passes all understanding.”
- Other: _____

ENCOURAGEMENT

- Tonight’s circle prayer formula:

“Dear God, I want to thank you for _____

and I want to ask you for _____. Amen.

(Insert your answers from questions six and seven in the blanks)

An Introduction to P.E.A.C.E. Groups

Session Three—Evangelism

PRAYER

- Led by the leader

EVANGELISM

- Empty Chair

Pre-Study:

- Ice-breaker:

In the space provided, write down your primary a) interest, b) problem and c) hope or dream.

..

When you were in sixth grade:

a) Interest: _____

b) Problem: _____

c) Hope/Dream:

Right now in your life:

a) Interest:

²⁰ Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform.

²¹ But select capable men from all the people--men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain--and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.

²² Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you.

²³ If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied."

²⁴ Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.

²⁵ He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.

²⁶ They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.

The Story:

1. How do you feel about Moses' situation in the beginning of this story?

- I feel sorry for him. I can sympathize for him.
- He sounds like me. I think he's a control freak.

2. How do you feel about Jethro?

- He should have minded his own business He's a caring father-in-law.
- He's an honest man, not afraid to tell you like it is.
- It's easier to say than do.

3. What was Moses' (or rather Jethro's) strategy to meet the needs of the thousands of people in Exodus.

CHRIST-STUDY

Introduction:

In this beginner course for P.E.A.C.E. Groups, the purpose of the Christ-study is to get to know one another, bond as a group, and learn about the mission of the P.E.A.C.E. Groups ministry. In this session, you will learn about the third part of the P.E.A.C.E. acronym, "Apprenticing", by looking at an Old Testament of Moses and his father-in-law, Jethro.

Opening Questions:

- Have you ever been someone's apprentice or assistant—whether at work or helping your parent or guardian with a task in your childhood? Describe in what capacity.
- What was it like being an apprentice?

Moses and Jethro – Exodus 18:12-26

¹² Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and other sacrifices to God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law in the presence of God.

¹³ The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening.

¹⁴ When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?"

¹⁵ Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will.

¹⁶ Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and laws."

¹⁷ Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good.

¹⁸ You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.

¹⁹ Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him.

b) Problem: _____

c) Hope/Dream: _____

Ten years from now:

a) Interest: _____

b) Problem: _____

c) Hope/Dream: _____

Now read Matthew 9:35-38 and answer the following:

- What were Jesus' primary interest, problem, & hope/dream in this text?
- Do you think Jesus' answers have changed since then?
- What does this mean for you and your P.E.A.C.E. group?

CHRIST-STUDY

Introduction:

In this beginner course for P.E.A.C.E. Groups, the purpose of the Christ-study is to get to know one another, bond as a group, and learn about the mission of the P.E.A.C.E. Groups ministry. In this session, you will learn about the second part of the P.E.A.C.E. acronym, "Evangelism", by looking at the account of the disciple Philip's meeting with an Ethiopian government official.

Opening Questions:

- How did you become a believer in Jesus? Who shared the faith with you and how did they do it?
- Who do you especially admire for the way they share their faith? Why?

Philip And the Ethiopian—Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road--the desert road--that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." ³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. ³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." ³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

An Introduction to P.E.A.C.E. Groups

Session Four—Apprenticing

PRAYER

- Led by the leader

EVANGELISM

- Empty Chair

Pre-Study:

- "Get-to-know-me" activity. . . Three truths/One Lie

Complete the following statements truthfully—except one. But make that one believable! You will have the opportunity to share your answers and let others guess where you are lying.

1. My favorite movie of all time is

2. My favorite pastime right now is

3. One of my greatest accomplishments is

4. A little-known fact about me is

6. *Who is someone that you think would benefit from being in this P.E.A.C.E. Group?*

ENCOURAGEMENT

- Tonight's circle prayer formula:

"Dear God, I want to thank you for _____. Amen"

The Story:

1. *How do you think Philip felt as he approached the chariot?*

- Scared to death.
- Comfortable, because he had done this before.
- A little anxious since he didn't know how the Ethiopian would react.
- He was an apostle—I don't think he had any worries at all when it came to spiritual things.
- He was wondering, "What's a eunuch anyway?"

2. *What do you like most about the way Philip shared his faith?*

- He wasn't obnoxious about it.
- His opening question, "do you understand what you are reading?"
- He didn't stop with the Ethiopian; he kept on sharing it with others.
- He knew His Bible and was ready to discuss it.
- He didn't have a pre-set agenda. He treated the Ethiopian as a unique individual.

3. *What do you think is the most important point to learn from this story?*

- Hearing the good news is supposed to fill us with great joy. (v.39)
- The Old Testament talks about Jesus just as much as the New Testament. (v.32ff)
- Sharing the faith should be a natural thing for every Christian.
- We should always be looking for opportunities to share our faith with others.
- Just as God helped Philip share his faith, God will also help us do so.

Other: _____

Your Story:

1. *What have you found to be the best way for you to share your faith?*

- Just being a friend. Giving the facts of the Gospel.
- Telling my own story of how I became a believer.
- Living my life as a good example
- Inviting a person to go to church with me.
- Other: _____

2. *What is your favorite excuse for not sharing the good news of Christ?*

- Claiming I don't know enough. Saying I don't have time.
- I'm scared! Being too concerned with my own life.
- Thinking others can do it. Just ignoring it.
- Other: _____

3. *What promise of God encourages you the most when it comes to sharing your faith with others?*

- "I will be with you always, to the very end of the age." --Matthew 28:19
- "Do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." --Matthew 10:19-20
- "He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me" --Luke 10:16
- "God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline." --II Timothy 1:7
- "But, the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." --John 14:26
- Other: _____

The Adult P.E.A.C.E. Groups vision statement :

"The Vision of Prince of Peace's Adult Ministries is an ever-expanding community of adults who are continually growing in the nine key areas of the Master Plan of Discipleship."

4. *What do you think will be the biggest obstacle your P.E.A.C.E. Group will face in trying to grow and birth another group?*

- No one will be interested in joining our group.
- We will grow to like each other so much we won't want any new people here.
- New people will feel like outsiders after we've all gotten close.
- One of us will have to be willing to learn to become a leader.
- We will tend to depend on the leader too much to invite and bring new people.
- Other: _____

5. *What do you think will happen to this P.E.A.C.E. Group in the future if you don't all work on filling the empty chair?*

- Nothing—our group will be better that way.
- The group will eventually die.
- We will miss out on a big part of God's plan for us.
- I probably won't do any evangelism if I don't do it here.
- Other: _____