



## **Group Discussion Guide**

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# Lean on Me: Our Need for Community Group Discussion Guide

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## Series Overview

God does not intend for us to be alone ([Gen 2:18](#)). When we are in community with other believers, we can lean on them to help us:

- Grow in Christ.
- Experience giving and receiving love.
- Give and receive grace.
- Focus on our true purpose.

## Purpose of This Guide

The primary purpose of this group guide is to reinforce and deepen the lessons of the Grace Church message series: **Lean on Me**.

You may choose to use this guide:

- with your Grace Group.
- with any group of people interested in knowing what the Bible says about these topics.

# 1-Lean on Me for Growth

Scripture: [Acts 2:40-42](#)

## Icebreaker: Grits

There is no such thing as a single grit. Grits don't exist alone. Discuss how people are like grits. Even though some people are grittier than others, God intends us to be in community with others.

## Discussion Questions: Exhort

- When we exhort one another, it helps us grow ([Acts 2:40](#)). Exhorting is more than encouraging. Discuss times when someone exhorted you in the following ways:
  - ▶ Urged you to follow God's Word
  - ▶ Comforted you when you struggled
  - ▶ Confronted you when you went against God's Word
  - ▶ Encouraged you when you took a risk for God
  
- Fellowship is more than social events. It is sharing our spiritual lives with others ([Acts 2:42](#)). What are the benefits of sharing our spiritual lives?
  - ▶ [Proverbs 27:17](#)
  - ▶ [Psalm 133:1](#)
  - ▶ [Hebrews 3:13](#)What opportunities do you have for sharing your spiritual lives with others?
  
- In what ways are two better than one ([Ecc 4:9-12](#))?

## Dig a Little Deeper: My Brother's Keeper

- You are your brother's keeper [**Gen 4:9**]. Keeper = shamar (Hebrew for guard, protect, attend). Who in your life do you guard and protect?
- You need others and they need you [**1The 2:7**]. What have others done to guard and protect you?

## Application Exercise: Mutual Keepers

In the following week:

- Lean on someone for support and encouragement.
- Encourage someone in his/her walk with God.

## 2-Lean on Me for Love

Scripture: [Acts 2:42](#)

### Icebreaker: Because He First Loved Us

We love Him because He first loved us ([1John 4:19-21](#)). In what way can we love others before they love us?

### Discussion Questions: Love in Action

- Fellowship is more than social events. It is showing love for one another ([Acts 2:42](#)). What are small ways to express your love for others?
- When it comes to love, why do our actions speak louder than words ([1John 3:18](#))?
- How is bearing one another's burdens an act of love ([Rom 15:1-6](#))?
- How is serving one another an act of love ([Gal 5:13](#))? Make a list of ways to serve one another.

## Dig a Little Deeper: Showing Love for God

To show God you love Him, which of these have you done?

- Kept His commandments (**John 14:21**).
- Fed His sheep (**John 21:15**).
- Avoided causing others to stumble (**Rom 14:15**).
- Praised Him (**Psa 113:1**).
- Served Him with gladness (**Psa 100:2**).

## Application Exercise: Showing Love

During the following week, do one thing to show love for each of the following:

One Thing I Will Do	for:
	God
	a family member
	a person in my community
	a person in my church
	a stranger

# 3-Lean on Me for Grace

Scripture: [Acts 2:42-44](#)

## Icebreaker: I Didn't Deserve It

Discuss times when someone did something kind you didn't deserve.

## Discussion Questions: Care and Share

- Cultivating deep relationships as God desires begins with caring ([1The 2:7-8](#)). What are practical ways to show others you care about them?
- To nurture another person, you must share part of yourself ([1The 2:8](#)). Make a list of ways to share part of yourself with others.
- Which of the following are you most likely to do to express your love for other people?
  - Tell them how dear they are to you.
  - Give them a hug.
  - Do something nice for them.
  - Spend quality time with them.
- God wants us to spur one another on toward love and good deeds ([Heb 10:24-25](#)).
  - ▶ Who encourages you to express Christ's love to others?
  - ▶ Who do you encourage to reflect Christ's love?



## Dig a Little Deeper: Authenticity

How do you make room for people in your life? What helps or hinders authenticity?

- [Proverbs 25:28](#)
- [Proverbs 15:1-2](#)
- [Proverbs 16:23-24](#)
- [Matthew 7:1-5](#)
- [Colossians 4:5-6](#)

## Application Exercise: Be an Encourager

Pick one thing from the following list to practice in the coming week.

- Pray for others ([Jas 5:16](#)).
- Be patient ([Eph 4:2](#)).
- Be sensitive. Choose words to build up others ([Eph 4:29](#) and [John 1:14](#)).
- Listen to others ([Pro 13:3](#) and [Jas 1:9](#)).

# 4-Lean on Me for Purpose

Scripture: [Acts 2:43-47](#)

## Icebreaker: What is Community?

Community = a unified body of individuals who share joint ownership and participation in something

What does your group jointly own? In what do you participate together?

## Discussion Questions: Common Ground

- We serve the Lord ([Eph 4:1](#)). We are brothers and sisters in Christ. All believers are Kingdom agents who have the responsibility to reach others for Christ. Make a list of ways we can help everyone become outward-focused followers of Christ.
- To have true fellowship with one another, we must walk in the light ([1John 1:7](#)). Discuss how your common faith unites you.
- To share Christ's light and love requires that we connect with others ([Acts 2:46](#)). Make a list of people with whom you connect.

## Dig a Little Deeper: I Will Build My Church

I	The Church is about Jesus	<a href="#">Col 1:18</a>
Will	The Church is about Jesus' Promises	<a href="#">Heb 10:36</a>
Build	The Church is about Restoration	<a href="#">Eph 4:11-15</a>
My	The Church is about Servanthood	<a href="#">1Pet 5:5-6</a>
Church	The Church is about Community	<a href="#">Ecc 4:9-12</a>

Think about the passages in the table.

### Application Exercise: Gifts for a Purpose

God gave each of us gifts for a purpose ([Rom 12:6-8](#)).

Make a plan to use your gifts to serve others at least once in the coming week.



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