



Part Two
Group Discussion Guide



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last update = 27Feb2017

The Pioneer Spirit

Group Discussion Guide

PART ONE: (separate guide)

1. Turning the World Right-Side Up
2. Becoming Followers of the Lord
3. Developing Others Spiritually
4. Handling Spiritual Opposition
5. Supporting Others in Affliction

PART TWO:

6-Growing Deeper with God	2
7-Finding Comfort in Death	4
8-Looking Forward to Christ's Return	6
9-Building Healthy Relationships	8
10-Allowing Christ to Finish His Work	10

Series Overview

God hard-wired us to need a challenge. Are you living with the pioneer spirit? Do you know Jesus, The Pioneer Spirit? Life begins when you seek and save that which is lost.

Purpose of This Guide

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

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.

6-Growing Deeper with God

Scripture: [1The 4:1-12](#)

Icebreaker: What is Wrong with This Picture?

Imagine that, several years ago, your friend inherited \$10 million. This friend still lives in a rat-infested shack and mooches money from you. What is wrong with this picture?

Discussion Questions: Sanctification

- Sanctification is the process of becoming set apart for God's holy use. The process begins when you dedicate yourself to serving God by loving Him and others ([1The 4:3](#)). When you do that, you begin to turn your back on impure thoughts and behaviors. You move out of that rat-infested shack.
 - ▶ What could we do to become ready to dedicate ourselves to serving God?
 - ▶ If you've dedicated yourself to serving God, tell your group about the experience. How have your thoughts and behaviors changed since then?

- Why is it important for us to become sanctified ([1The 4:7-8](#))?

- What did God give us to make it possible to do what He commands ([1The 4:8](#))?

- To live a quiet life, we must discard idols ([1The 4:11-12](#) and [1The 1:9](#)). Make a list of idols within each of the following categories:
 - ▶ Social / Family
 - ▶ Religious
 - ▶ Civic
 - ▶ Creation

Dig a Little Deeper: His Character, Our Behavior

Paul based his instructions for behavior standards on God's holy character ([Lev 20:7](#) and [1Pet 1:14-16](#)).

Faithful	2The 3:3
Loving	John 15:9
Good	Psa 34:8
Just	Isa 30:18
Merciful	Lam 3:22

Application Exercise: Behavior Self-Assessment

List a few of your behaviors that honor God's character and a few of your behaviors that do not honor God's character.

<i>Behaviors That Honor God's Character</i>	<i>Behaviors That Do Not Honor God's Character</i>

7-Finding Comfort in Death

Scripture: [1The 4:13-18](#)

Icebreaker:

We Shall Behold Him

Discuss how this verse portrays the death of a Christ-follower.

The angel shall sound the shout of His coming; The sleeping shall rise from their slumbering place. And those who remain shall be changed in a moment; And we shall behold Him then face to face.
-Dottie Rambo, *We Shall Behold Him*

godtube.com/watch/?v=1BOE1JNU

Discussion Questions: Hope, Assurance, Comfort

- Hope in this context is “elpis” which means expectation [[1The 4:13](#)]. It is not wishful thinking. Believers who die will be with Jesus [[1The 4:14](#)]. How does this comfort you about your death and the death of your loved ones [[Psa 17:15](#)]?
- What was the source of Paul’s assurance to the Thessalonians [[1The 4:15](#)]?
- Of the things that will happen when Christ returns, which do you look forward to the most [[1The 4:17](#) and [Php 3:20-21](#)]?
 - Being with Christ forever
 - Being with other Christ-followers
 - Getting a glorified body
 - Other _____
- If you find comfort in knowing what will happen at Christ’s return, what can you do to comfort others [[1The 4:16-18](#)]?

Dig a Little Deeper: His Return

Christ spoke of His coming again in [John 14:3](#).

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (NKJV)

John 14:3	1The 4:16-17
<i>I will come again</i>	<i>For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven...</i>
<i>and receive you to Myself</i>	<i>...caught up together... to meet the Lord in the air...</i> In Latin, the word for caught up is rapturo which is why many people call this the rapture.
<i>that where I am, there you may be also</i>	<i>...thus we shall always be with the Lord.</i>

Application: Comfort One Another

Pray, thanking God for the comfort of His Words in [1Thessalonians 4](#). Ask Him to bring someone to you that you may comfort with those words.

8-Looking Forward to Christ's Return

Scripture: [1The 5:1-11](#)

Icebreaker: Preparation

Some things need more preparation than others. What in your life has required the most preparation?

Discussion Questions: Christ's Return

- When will Christ return ([1The 5:2](#) and [Mat 24:36](#))?
- When Christ returns, why will this surprise some people ([1Pet 3:20](#) and [2Pet 3:3-4](#))?
- The requirements for getting to heaven and facing the judgment seat of Christ are not the same ([1John 2:28](#) and [2Cor 5:9-11](#)). Summarize the differences.

<i>Ready to Go to Heaven</i>	<i>Ready for the Judgment Seat</i>

- As you look forward to His return, which of the following are you most likely to do? Why?
 - Faithfully do the work He assigns me to do ([Luke 12:41-48](#))
 - Love other believers ([Heb 10:25](#))
 - Be a good example in the way I lead my life ([1John 3:1-3](#))
 - Share my faith as often as possible ([2Cor 5:20-21](#))

Dig a Little Deeper: Who Will Taste God's Wrath?

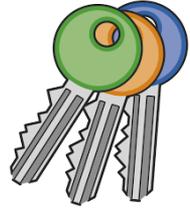
<i>Will Taste God's Wrath</i>	<i>Will Not Taste God's Wrath</i>
Earth dwellers	Citizens of heaven
Those who have not accepted Christ	Those who are Christ-followers
Isa 13:6-9	Php 3:20 John 5:24

Application Exercise: Am I Ready?

Pray, asking God to show you where He wants you to make changes in your behaviors and priorities. Ask Him to help you get ready to meet Him at the Judgment Seat.

9-Building Healthy Relationships

Scripture: [1The 5:12-22](#)



Icebreaker: Relationship Keys

Brainstorm a list of keys to having healthy relationships.

Discussion Questions: Building Relationships

- What should you know about the ones who labor among you ([1The 5:12](#), [John 10:2-4](#), [Col 1:27-28](#))? How can that help you build relationships with them?

- Whose responsibility is it to warn the unruly among the church ([1The 5:14](#) and [2The 3:11](#))? How can you do this in a way that builds relationships?

- What can we do to comfort the fainthearted ([1The 5:14](#), and [Heb 12:2-3](#))?

- In what way are the following challenging for you?
 - ▶ Always rejoicing ([1The 5:16](#))
 - ▶ Praying without ceasing ([1The 5:17](#))
 - ▶ Giving thanks in everything ([1The 5:18](#))
 - ▶ Allowing the Holy Spirit to be in charge ([1The 5:19](#))
 - ▶ Honoring what the Bible says ([1The 5:20-21](#))
 - ▶ Abstaining from all appearance of evil ([1The 5:22](#))How do these things build your relationship with God?

- Discuss what we can do to test all things ([1The 5:21](#))?

Dig a Little Deeper: Appearances

Some people believe in appearances. That's why what we do or say in front of other people is important [[1The 5:22](#), [Rom 12:1-3](#), [Rom 14:16-18](#), [2Cor 6:3](#)].

Application Exercise: Relationship Assessment

How are you doing in building and maintaining healthy relationships? [Skip any that don't apply.]

<i>Relationship with:</i>	<i>Doing Well < - - -> Needs Work</i>
God	5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1
Spouse	5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1
Children	5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1
Other Family Members	5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1
Those in Your Church	5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1
Work/School Associates	5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1
Friends	5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1
Neighbors	5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1
Other _____	5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

Pray, asking God to help you build and maintain healthy relationships.

10-Allowing Christ to Finish His Work

Scripture: [1The 5:23-28](#)

Icebreaker:

Describe Worship

Using the quote as inspiration, describe what it means to worship God.

For to worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open up the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God.
-William Temple

Discussion Questions: Allow Him to Finish

- Discuss how Jesus, as the way of peace, separates you from the things of the world ([1The 5:23](#) and [Luke 1:79](#)).
- What role does worship play in allowing Christ to finish His work ([1The 5:24](#))?
- In what way does prayer allow Christ to finish His work ([1The 5:25](#) and [Rom 15:30](#))?
- How does maintaining good relationships allow Christ to finish His work ([1The 5:26](#))?
- What role does God's Word play in allowing Christ to finish His work ([1The 5:27](#) and [Mat 21:42](#))?

Dig a Little Deeper: Importance of Reading God’s Word

In Paul’s day, not everyone could read. Even for those who could, there were not copies of God’s Word readily available. That’s why it was customary to read it aloud [**Acts 13:14-15**]. God has blessed us with easy access to His Word. Following are some reasons to read God’s Word.

God’s Word:

- Shows us how to live well according to His standard [**Psa 19:7-11**].
- Tells us who He is and who we are [**John 1:1** and **Eph 2:4-10**].
- Guides us into a relationship with Him [**1Pet 1:23** and **Jas 1:21**].
- Teaches and corrects us [**2Tim 3:16-17**].
- Equips us for service [**Eph 6:10-18**].

Application Exercise: Am I Allowing Christ to Finish His Work?

<i>My Responsibility</i>	<i>Doing Well < - - > Needs Work</i>
Worshipping Him with my body, soul, and spirit	5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1
Praying for those who help others become outward-focused followers of Jesus	5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1
Maintaining loving relationships with fellow believers	5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1
Reading God’s Word and applying it to my life	5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

Pray, asking God to help you fulfill your responsibilities in allowing Him to finish His work.

[notes]

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