

# GROVE Groups Discussion Guide

## Week One



### Leader's Introduction of Topic:

Grove Groups derive from our understanding of the early Christian Church in New Testament times. Christians came together in homes to worship, pray, eat, and fellowship with one another (Acts 2:42-47). Grove Groups provide the same opportunity for friends in Christ to join together, to get to know one another, and to demonstrate their love and concern for one another as God would like us to do.

**These "Guidelines for Sharing" will bring an atmosphere of trust so that all feel included and listened to. Share them as you begin your group:**

- A. Everyone should feel safe.
- B. Members are willing to be vulnerable with each other to their comfort level.
- C. We abide by confidentiality, unless permission is granted for sharing.
- D. Everyone in the group talks and listens in roughly equal measure, keeping contributions short.
- E. Members communicate directly with one another, not just with the leader of the discussion.
- F. Respect other's differences: recognize people have different comfort levels with talking in a group, assume good intentions of group members, and only speak positively about each other.
- G. Be willing to share leadership so the facilitator isn't the only one in charge.
- H. Members should feel free to connect outside of group time.

**Choose two or three questions to begin getting to know one another.**

Share your name and how you ended up at The Grove

How long does it take to drive to church from your home?

Tell about a hobby you have and how you got started.

Tell us about your family.

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## Week Two



### Leader's Introduction of Topic:

The Grove UMC has a mission statement reflecting what our church community believes.

Come as you are.....you'll be welcomed.

We strive to reflect God's love to all.

Be who you are.... You'll be celebrated.

We honor the sacred worth and dignity of persons of every age, race ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental capacity, education, economic, and marital status.

Explore Where you are....we'll walk alongside you.

We recognize that faith is a journey of trust and transformation,  
where beliefs are formed and reformed in community.

### Which parts of this mission statement especially speaks to you?

### Other possible points of discussion:

Tell us something about your church history.

What do you find difficult or challenging about being a Christian?

When have you felt closest to God? Farthest from God?

### Opportunity for growth:

Persons in the Group lift up prayer concerns.

Draw names and pray for that person during the upcoming week.

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## Week Three



### Leader introduction to the topic:

The book of Acts was written 30-40 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. It was written by the same author of Luke, and is a narrative of the growth of the Christian church. The once fearful Peter became a bold witness for Jesus and we are told that because of the disciples testimonies over 3000 were added to the family of faith.

### Read Acts 2: 40-47 from "The Message"

### Possible questions:

What quality of the early Christian community impresses you?

What kind of challenges do you think this new community experienced?

What kind of gifts do you think this new community required in order to function smoothly?

**One of the things that marked the early community is the breaking of bread in communion.** To break bread was a symbol of intimate relationship, a special bond that could not be broken. When they ate and drank together they remembered Jesus' sacrifice and the relationship he offers.

### Read Corinthians 11:23-26

What are your feelings during Communion? Does it have special meaning to you?

Where do you like to eat with friends? (A special restaurant?)

### Opportunities:

Consider breaking bread together as a group through a potluck

Arrange to go to a new restaurant together or plan a Connected Care activity from the Grove Group Manual. [www.thegrovemn.church/team-resources/grove-group-leaders](http://www.thegrovemn.church/team-resources/grove-group-leaders)

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## Additional Questions for Discussion



**A good way to start each group session:** What was the highlight of your week? or Where did you see God this week?

What do you wish you could “do over” this week.....either because it was great or because it wasn't so great?

What is prayer like in your life?

What's a time in your life when your faith really grew?

What's a time when your relationship with Christ was a struggle? And what do you sense could have improved that?

What does forgiveness mean to you? Are there things that are difficult for you to forgive?

Describe a place where you feel peace and contentment.

As Christians we are to offer care and comfort to others. Who have you provided care for?

Sent a card, a meal, or shoveled a driveway for etc.?

If you could ask one thing from God, what would it be?

What do you especially enjoy doing with your family?

Did you have a favorite teacher? What qualities do you admire?

How do you witness God's great love for you?

Describe the best vacation you have ever taken

What chore do you dislike the most?

What is your favorite restaurant in the area?

What was the first car you ever owned?

Do you have any hobbies? How did you get started?

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## Additional Questions for Discussion



Give a little of your background.....where you were raised, where you work or did work etc.

Who was the most influential person in your life other than your parents?

What was your first job? What was your favorite job?

When is your birthday? Describe the birthday you remember the most.

What do you do if you want to treat yourself?

Do you have a pet and if so, describe it.

What is your preferred sport to play and/or watch?

What kind of movies or books do you enjoy?

What radio station is on in your car when you are driving?

If you could choose a second career, what would it be?

What is your favorite ice cream flavor? Ice cream shop?

What is your favorite family tradition?

What is on your bucket list?

Whats the most adventurous thing you have ever done?

Name something that is always in your car.

What are you nostalgic for?

Finish this statement: Home is where.....

What is the least organized part of your life?

What is the cleanest thing in your house?