

Grace Groups

Growing in Grace and Watching Over One Another in Love

What is a Grace Group?

Grace Groups are small communities of 6 to 8 people who meet weekly to grow deeper in faith and watch over one another in love. They are a place to be honest about your faith journey, to notice where God is at work, and to pray for each other. The format is simple, the conversation is real, and over time these become the people who know your story.

A Grace Group IS	A Grace Group is NOT
✓ A place to be honest about your faith	✗ A Bible study or lecture
✓ A community that watches over one another in love	✗ A therapy group
✓ Real conversation and shared prayer	✗ A place to fix each other's problems
✓ A rhythm you can count on each week	✗ A drop-in event

1. Center

Open with prayer or a moment of silence. Take a breath. Let the week fall away. *God of vine and branch, vineyard keeper, give us courage to release what no longer bears fruit. Hold us in the cutting. Teach us to remain when our instinct is to pull away. Grow in us what we cannot grow in ourselves. Amen.*

2. Soul Tending

Check in with where you are spiritually. The five promises help us find our way into the conversation:

- **Prayers** — How is your prayer life?
- **Presence** — How has worship shaped your week?
- **Gifts** — Where are you giving your time, money, or energy?
- **Service** — Where are you serving right now?
- **Witness** — Where have you lived your faith out loud?

Pick the one or two that feel most alive, or most stuck, right now.

3. God Sightings

Share something from this week where you noticed God moving, in your life, in someone else's, or in the world around you. Big or small, it counts.

4. Growing in Grace

Name something you are carrying, a decision, a fear, a next step you have been avoiding. The group is not here to fix it. Just to hear it, sit with you in it, and pray.

5. Close

- Each person shares one prayer need in a sentence.
- Someone in the group prays for them out loud.
- Keep it simple. Hold the hard things to the light.

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Grace Group Guide • John 15:1-5, 8 • June 14, 2026

Tending the Soul, Week 3 · New Member Sunday · Releasing to Grow

Setting the Scene. In his final conversation with the disciples, Jesus reaches for an image from the vineyard. The Father is the keeper. Jesus is the true vine. We are the branches. The keeper removes dead branches and trims living ones, so that the vine bears more fruit. The instruction that holds the passage together is short: remain.

Center

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Soul Tending

- Where in your life right now does "remain" feel hardest, and what is tempting you to pull away?
- Which of the five promises keeps you connected to the vine in the seasons when you would rather drift?
- What practice of remaining could you build into your rhythm this week, knowing the keeper is the one who produces the fruit?

God Sightings

- Where have you noticed God producing something good in your life that you did not engineer or earn?
- What season of pruning, the loss of a role, a relationship, a chapter, do you now see as preparation rather than punishment?
- Where is something tender and green just starting to break through that you want to pay attention to?

Growing in Grace

- What dead branch in your life have you been protecting, and what would it take to cooperate with the keeper's cut?
- What good thing might God be asking you to release, not because it failed, but because the next harvest needs the energy?
- If becoming a member, or recommitting your membership, is one way of saying "I am willing to remain," what does that look like for you this season?

Close

Each person shares one prayer need in a sentence. Then someone prays for them out loud. Trust that the keeper has not stopped tending you.

The keeper is still tending. Grow with us at mcphersonfirst.org/next.

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