

HOW TO USE THIS GROUP GUIDE

CONNECT (10 MINS)

- Pick one or more of the warm-up questions and have all the group members give a response to the question(s).
- Make sure everybody gets a chance to speak. Don't let talkative people dominate the conversation, but graciously welcome everybody to participate.

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TRUTH (15-20 MIN)

- Read the scriptures and paragraphs in this section to clearly communicate what the Bible says about the week's topic.
- **"DISCUSS" sections:** These sections get people discussing the practical implications of the truth being discussed. Have one or two people give an answer, but don't spend too much time on these questions.

GRACE (5 MINS)

- Read the grace scripture and section which shows how the passage points to Jesus Christ and God's grace.
- This section is really important, because it shows that life change begins with the grace of God and not our own efforts.

CHANGE (10-15 MINS)

- Have everyone give an answer to each of the change questions.
- Take a good amount of time here. Really encourage people to think through how they can practically put truth into action.

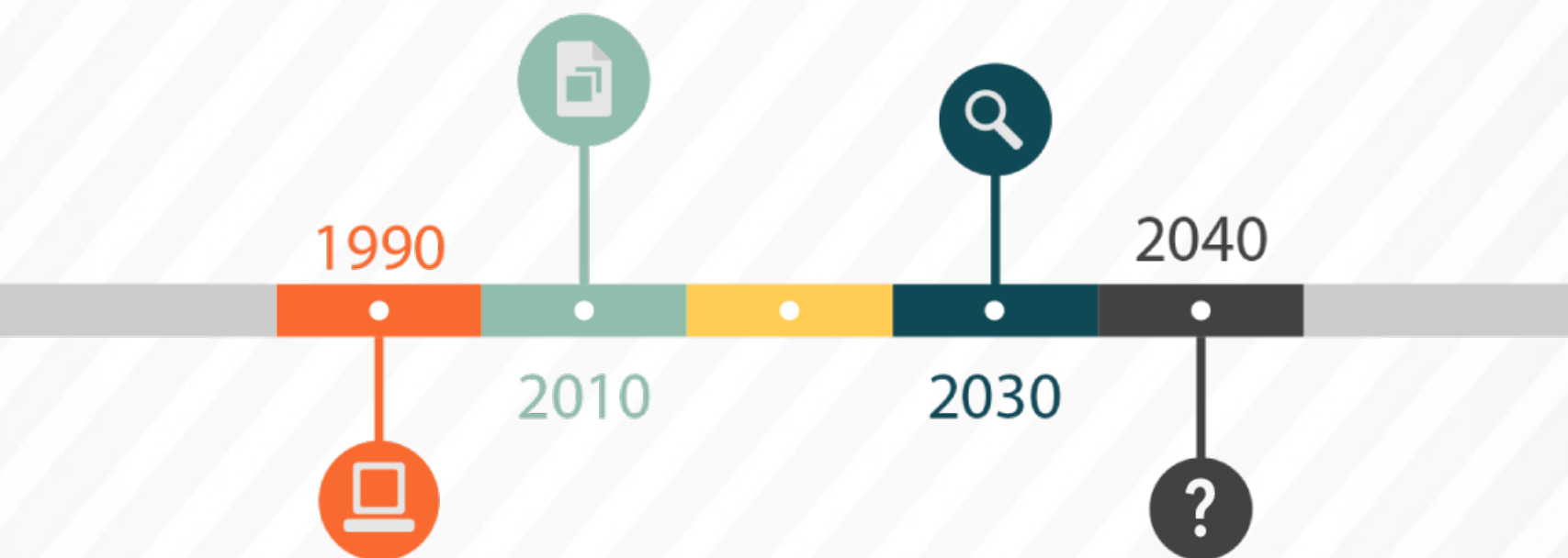
PRAYER (10-15 MINS)

- Read through the prayer focus points and have one or two people in the group pray.
- Make sure not to rush through prayer. The things we want God to change in our lives will often happen through prayer.

DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN (2 MINS)

- This final portion aims to get people reading the Bible for themselves and thinking about engaging others with the gospel.

THIS IS OUR TIME



WEEK 4



ALETHEIA
CHURCH

CONNECT

*BREAK THE ICE AND
GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- What are some topics of conversation that you could talk about for hours with someone?
- What was a subject or hobby that you've tried in your life and were bad at no matter how hard you tried?
- What kind of associations do you have with the Holy Spirit?

TRUTH

*UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS
THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

READ: Acts 1:1–8

Jesus told his disciples that they would be his witnesses to the nations of the world. But he also told them to wait first for the “promise of the Father.” The promise of the Father is the Holy Spirit, who would give them power to carry out the mission of making disciples. Like a car without gas, the mission can’t go without the power of the Holy Spirit. If we’re going to make disciples who bring the truth, grace, and changing power of the gospel for the glory of God and the good of all people, we must be empowered by the Holy Spirit. Let’s see how and why.

THE SPIRIT & THE MESSAGE

READ: Matthew 10:19-20 and John 16:7-11

DISCUSS: How do these passages impact the way you think about evangelism?

We need to know how to tell the story of the gospel, but we also need to understand the limits of our ability to make someone believe it. The Holy Spirit speaks through us when we tell someone about Jesus. He can help us share the gospel in effective ways that we might not think of. Also, it's the Holy Spirit who makes a person open to believing the gospel. We share the message, but the Holy Spirit makes the message effective.

THE SPIRIT & RESISTANCE

READ: Acts 19:23-27

DISCUSS: What's the real reason that Demetrius was showing resistance to Christianity? What does this tell you about why people might resist the gospel in our time?

The Greek word for witness is where we get our English word martyr. The Holy Spirit makes our message effective, but that doesn't mean every person we share the gospel with will believe it. Jesus guaranteed resistance. If we don't want resistance to silence us, we need the power of the Holy Spirit to embolden us. Time and time again in the book of Acts, people are filled with boldness by the Holy Spirit in the face of major threats. The Holy Spirit wants to give us that same boldness and endurance.

GRACE

SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS

THE SPIRIT & JESUS

READ: John 16:12-14

DISCUSS: What stands out to you from these words of Jesus and why?

People follow Jesus because they love him. We can tell people why we love Jesus, but we can't make someone love Jesus. That's where the Holy Spirit comes in. He "glorifies" Jesus. In other words, he opens someone's heart and eyes to see the beauty, majesty, and splendor of Christ. We bear witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit works alongside us to

make it real to people's hearts. All
thanks be to God for his promised
Holy Spirit!

CHANGE

*APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR
THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS*

- Do you have questions or reservations that are keeping you from being a witness for Christ?
- How does this discussion change the way you approach sharing the gospel with people?
- Are there people in your life right now that the Holy Spirit is bringing to your attention to reach out to?

PRAYER

RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

- Turn to Acts 4:29 and echo the prayer of the believers for boldness.
- Pray for each person by name that group members are reaching out to, that God would save them.
- Pray for a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit in what to say when talking with friends about Jesus.

DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're engaging with the gospel?



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