**THE WIN:** Last week was all about introductions, this week is about building upon the fellowship you began last week. It is essential for the first month of Groups to grow in your relationships with each other. The best way to do this is by taking your time through the “Getting to Know You” section. Other ways to grow in relationships together include…

1. Building “fellowship time” before and after the meeting. Include snacks and refreshments before and desserts after the meeting.
2. Text or call those who are absent that you missed them and ask how you can pray for them.

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU** (don’t rush through this portion, especially newer groups)

**After they take their seats SAY,** “Welcome back everyone. It is good to see each of you. We are so grateful to have each of you part of this group. Before we dive into discussing the sermon, we are going to spend some more time getting to know each other. There are two questions all of us are going to answer:

1. How many siblings do you have? What is their best quality? If you don’t have siblings, then would you rather have a brother or sister? Why?
2. Would you rather get rid of your cell phone or share a car? Why?

**DISCUSSING THE SERMON**

**Before discussing pray briefly, then SAY,** “This week Pastor Mike introduced the book of 2 Peter, which we will be discussing for the rest of the semester. This first question is a very general question:

**QUESTION:** Was there anything from the sermon that stood out, challenged, or encouraged you?

**Ask a volunteer to read the introduction in 1:1-2. After they read it SAY,** “Thank you for reading for us. This is the introduction and greeting of the letter. Some of the New Testament introductions are very basic and lack much depth, but this one contains very profound truths within it. The title of the sermon was called “Equal Standing,” the point emphasized was that all of us have equal standing before God even with spiritual giants like Peter, Paul, and John.

**QUESTION:** It was pointed out in the sermon that the first title Peter lists is not apostle, but servant. The application is that Peter was not into titles and status, for he first identified himself as a servant. What significance do titles carry in today’s culture? (encourage people to refrain from merely criticizing culture and be sure to include themselves in their evaluation and critique)

**QUESTION:** The chase for titles is essentially the pursuit of prominence. What is it specifically about prominence that allures us into this pursuit?

**QUESTION:** What is it about Christ that draws us away from this exhausting pursuit?

**SAY,** “Peter says something in the verse that is very challenging for many of us in the Christian life. He says, *‘to those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours.’* Most of us would agree that the apostles have done far more than any of us, which would make us think their faith has greater value and merit in the eyes of God. Peter flat contradicts this thinking by saying that our faith and the faith of the apostles is of equal value.

**QUESTION:** Do you personally find this to be a difficult truth to believe? Why or why not?

**QUESTION:** One of the main reasons we often find this so difficult to believe is that we rely too much on the quality of our faith rather than the object of our faith. How does this positively change the way you view yourself as a disciple of Jesus?

**LEADER TIP: “the quality of your faith vs. the object of your faith”** This is an essential distinction you need to be familiar with. It is an idea that helps you understand the nature of the kind of faith that saves you. You are not saved by having perfect, strong, and full faith; you are saved by a perfect, strong, and full Savior. When we believe it is the quality of faith that saves you then you will think that people who have stronger faith are more important to God, but in reality the only faith you need to receive the righteousness of Christ is a mustard seed size faith to receive Jesus.

**QUESTION:** How do you think your walk with Christ would change practically if you began to believe this truth as deeply as Peter is teaching it?

**GOING DEEPER**

**SAY,** “Before we end the night praying together it is important that we discuss the ways the sermon personally exposed sin, led us to Christ, and ultimately empowers us to live as disciples.”

**QUESTION:** Pastor Mike concluded his sermon in connection with his point from Peter’s phrase, *“grace and peace be multiplied to you.”* He challenged us about the ways in which we try to find grace and peace in somewhere other than in knowing Christ. He asked us, “If Jesus would give you anything you asked for today, what would you ask him for?” ***So… how would you answer that question tonight?***

**LEADER TIP:** Really encourage everyone to answer this question and be sure to remind them that your group is a safe place to be honest. You may want to be sensitive to the Spirit in praying on the spot for someone. You as the leader should go first to set the tone.

**PRAYER**

**Things to pray for this week. You can either take prayer requests, or pray through the following points.**

1. Pray for servant-leadership to grow in all of us in every area of life.
2. Pray for a deeper understanding of our faith being of equal standing as others.
3. Pray for the truths discussed in your group to become something we take outside and share with the world as witnesses to the gospel.