Dear Leader,

Based on this year’s teaching journey and your feedback in the survey, we felt that we should talk about **the need for commitment in our group life.**

Picture your first group meeting as a time to catch up from your respective summers and to envision **what you would each like to see and experience in a year themed on Belonging.** (The LC Study Guide will be focused on this as well.) It may be helpful to frame the group conversation with the end in mind. For example, “When we have our end-of-year BBQ in June 2019, what do we hope to be saying? What do we hope to have experienced together?”

During your first fall LC gathering, consider talking about **creating a group commitment or covenant together.**

**Please, please customize this template** to make it most natural and personal to your group. We have intentionally left blank spaces for the specifics. For instance, some will want to add specific guidelines about how you approach (or decide not to engage) particular topics. Also, some groups will want to call it a “covenant” as it reminds them of the Biblical covenants. Some will feel that’s too intense of a word and will prefer “commitment” or “agreement” or another term. Try not to get lost in the semantics; more important is the heart behind it than the words on it. You can download a digital copy at [www.grace.org/lcleaders](http://www.grace.org/lcleaders).

**The objective is to commit to strong group life in Jesus.** All groups will want to avoid creating any form of legalism, or a level of intensity that creates a culture of guilt or shame. It will be good to remind each other that we are in different parts of our spiritual journey, various life stages, and have unique responsibilities within every season of life. So let us be generous, patient, and understanding with each other, and may we be committed to one another as we follow Jesus individually and in community.

As always, let us know if you have any questions and we’d love to hear how your group did in this gathering and throughout the year.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tim and the Group Life Team

**Group Commitment**

**Group Purpose**

To create and nurture a community of belonging, following Jesus together.

**Group Essentials**

* We care about each other! We choose to invest in our relationships through conversations in and out of group meetings, prayer, support, and having fun together.
* We want to be more like Jesus. We challenge ourselves and one another to grow as disciples of Christ.
* We find ways to serve together and as individuals. We want God to use us to bring a bit of His kingdom to our church, community, and world.

**Group Guidelines**

Do our best to show up. Without legalism, without guilt, and with plenty of grace for one another, we prioritize our schedules to meet upon agreed gatherings (typically every other week).

Stay connected beyond group gatherings. We call and text and message each other to nurture our friendships.

Create a culture of healthy authenticity. We are open and transparent with each other, with appropriate boundaries. We don’t have to put on a show or a religious pretense; we can be ourselves.

Provide confidentiality. Because we seek authenticity, we will create a safe space by committing to keep issues discussed within the group confidential.

Demonstrate respect. We may not always agree, but we respect each other’s convictions and opinions and foster healthy discourse, remembering that we are all one in Christ.

Listen well. We want to hear from everyone, not just those who share most easily, so we make it a priority to hear from a variety of voices during times of discussion.

Transition healthily. If people decide to move on from the group, or the group stops meeting, we will help each other to take appropriate next steps to foster continued spiritual growth.

**Group Details**

1. The group will meet from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. The group will meet on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and begin at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and end at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3.

4.

5.