



**LEADERSHIP
BOOKLET**

Why Groups?

The vision of the Journey Church is to see transformed people change their friend's lives through absolute hope. As transformed people, we are disciples of Jesus. At Journey, we believe that there are 4 Core Ambitions for a Disciple who is following Jesus:

Partnering | Growing | Serving | Leading

The primary role of Groups at Journey is to help people **grow**. A disciple is not just created, but cultivated over time. We believe that this continued transformation happens best in relationships with other believers.

What Does a Group Look Like?

At Journey, we use a free market approach to groups. This means that we want people to gather together based on the things they enjoy and are import to them. Essentially, the things you are already doing in your life are the things that can make up your group!

From sports groups to lunch groups, mom groups to student groups, Bible study groups to support groups, our groups are as varied as we are. All groups fall within **4 Group Types**:

Men's | Women's | Couples | Mixed
(Men & Women)

Within these types, we have **4 Content Types**, which help determine the focus or concentration of the group:

Weekend Message | Study Based
Interest Based | Support Based

What Do Groups Do?

Once you determine your Group Type and your Content Type, you've got the basic construct for your group. CONGRATS!

To encourage individual expression and the unique nature of each group, we don't prescribe every single thing that should happen at a group. Does your group want to eat dinner together? Great! Do you want to include a sharing time each meeting? Awesome!

We want to encourage you to foster the unique culture of your group, but we do believe that there are **4 Key Activities** that every single group should be doing in some way, shape, or form:

4 Key Activities for Groups

1. Relationship - This comes first because we believe that all the beauty of groups flows from healthy relationships with one another. We should be building those relationships continually in our Group.

2. Spiritual Growth - Growing spiritually should be a key part of any group. Whether it's a devotional read before our running group or the Bible study we engage with, spiritual growth needs to happen.

3. Service - We believe that Serving is a BIG part of being a follower of Jesus, and we want our Groups to be serving together. Determine how and where you want to serve in the community as a group at least once this session.

4. Fun - Simply put: we should be having FUN with our Groups! Having fun not only build relationships, but it also takes us beyond simply meeting with people to doing life together.

5 Culture Essentials for Groups

We believe that a healthy group has five essential ingredients that create a thriving culture. No matter what type of group (Weekend Message, Study, Interest based, etc) these 5 ingredients must be present:

Vulnerability
Encouragement
Scripture
Prayer
Accountability

VULNERABILITY

“Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day’s out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ’s law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived.”

GALATIANS 6:1-3

Growth requires vulnerability. As leaders, it is our responsibility to create environments and opportunities that encourage people to open up - that type of atmosphere can only happen through relationships.

ENCOURAGEMENT

“So let’s do it—full of belief, confident that we’re presentable inside and out. Let’s keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let’s see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big day approaching.”

HEBREWS 10:22-25

“So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you’ll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you’re already doing this; just keep on doing it.”

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

Encourage people in their spiritual growth.

Make people feel good about sharing moments of growth.

Make a **big deal** of any step! (Baptism, Salvation, Bible Reading, etc).

Encourage people in their spiritual gifts.

Share in the leadership responsibilities of the group.

Create volunteer positions in the group (Snack Organizer, Group Communicator, Lead Ice Breaker, etc).

Encourage people to lead.

Identify your next leader or leaders. Model, develop, and mentor them.

Have them take over some responsibilities or lead various aspects of the group as you watch, assist, correct, and encourage.

SCRIPTURE

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Romans 10:17

“There’s nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God’s way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.”

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

No matter the type of group you choose to lead, sharing Scripture will always be an essential ingredient. Our purpose for groups at Journey is the help people **grow** in their relationship with Christ. Scripture is the foundational ingredient for spiritual growth.

PRAYER

“Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with.”

JAMES 5:13-18

“Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other’s spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

EPHESIANS 6:18

Set aside time during every group meeting to pray with and for another. This can be a time at the beginning of each group to set the tone or at the end of each meeting when you ask group members for prayer requests.

ACCOUNTABILITY

"It's better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps, but if there's no one to help, tough! Two in a bed warm each other. Alone, you shiver all night. By yourself you're unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn't easily snapped."

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12

"As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend."

PROVERBS 27:17

Growth requires coaching, and coaching without accountability is nothing more than good advice. If our purpose is to be transformed people that help change their friend's lives through absolute hope, then accountability is an essential ingredient to see that transformation become a reality.

We believe every person is created with God-given potential to make a difference in the world. God wants to transform us, so that we can **partner** with him to change our friend's lives. Groups are a place you can grow with others to become more like Jesus and reach the potential God has put inside you.

What Do Leaders Do?

As a group leader, you are responsible for providing your group with direction and support. Leaders are successful when they are personally growing in their relationship with God, with the people in their group, and when they are creating an atmosphere where vulnerability, encouragement, scripture, prayer & accountability are thriving.

3 ROLES OF THE LEADER

There are 3 key roles that you as the leader are responsible for covering. Note that we are simply covering these roles, and don't have to be a rockstar at each of them. Your responsibility as a leader is to make sure that each of these roles is being filled in your group, either by yourself, someone else, or with content.

1. The Teacher - Teaching is the vehicle through which content is delivered to the group, which leads to conversation and growth. Whether you're teaching through a Bible study or using a video or book, we need to provide excellent, Biblical teaching.

2. The Facilitator - Along with biblical teaching, we should be facilitating healthy conversation & discussion in our groups. Involving people & keeping things moving along are key.

3. The Host - Creating a comfortable atmosphere is an important aspect of whether people will participate in the group. Our aim should be to make people feel ready & willing to contribute.

7 Behaviors of Successful Group Leaders

Like we said earlier, not every group needs to look the same way, but we have found that there are common behaviors that exist in successful group leaders. Here are 7 behaviors, or things we do on a consistent basis as leaders, that will help us to be successful in leading our Groups:

1. Cultivate Relationships - This is the most important thing you do as a leader. Invest the **TIME**, so that you can build **TRUST**, and ultimately share **TRUTH** with others!

2. Think & Model Life Change - We can't lead people where we haven't been ourselves, so commit yourself to personal growth. Provide ways for your group to see they are growing.

3. Promote Participation - Include others in the conversation in a way that makes them feel engaged & comfortable.

4. Share the Responsibility - You don't have to do everything. So find others in the group that can help share the load, and focus the majority of your energy on building relationships.

5. Provide Care - Help the Group respond to the needs of those in the group, both physically and spiritually.

6. Replace Yourself - Think of the future and find another person who can be raised up as a leader. Give them increasing responsibility and pour into them over time.

7. Serve Together - Do something once a session where you're serving together, because we believe serving brings purpose!

Helpful Tips for Group Leaders

How to Cultivate Relationships

One of the primary things you should be actively doing as a group leader is building relationships with those in your group, and helping others in the group build their relationships with each other. There is no magic formula for cultivating relationships, but there are 3 elements that help:

- 1. Time** - We must spend time genuinely getting to know people.
- 2. Trust** - Investing time builds trust.
- 3. Truth** - Where there is trust, truth can be shared.

By putting building relationships at the top of your priorities, you're going to be planting the seeds for Vulnerability and Accountability in your group. You will **NEVER** go wrong by investing in relationships with others in your group.

How to Pray for Your Group

- Pray for any requests group members share.
- Ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit in you group.
- Pray that God will open people's hearts to hear His truth.
- Pray for authentic community to develop.
- Pray for wisdom and strength to lead your group well.
- Pray for each element of VESPA in your group.

How To Promote Participation

People are more open to participate when they feel welcome and comfortable. It is our responsibility as leaders to promote an inviting and hospitable environment.

Set the atmosphere for participation.

1. Clean and clutter free
2. Fresh scent
3. Set a comfortable temperature
4. Comfortable seating and arrangement (*think circles, not rows*)
5. Offer light refreshments
6. Distraction free environment (*i.e. Pets, Kids, TV's, etc*)

Use ice breakers to loosen people up and spark conversations.

Don't feel the need to make a big deal out of it, but you will be surprised at how a simple questions can get people chatting, which can lead to great discussion later. There is a large list of potential ice breakers later in this booklet.

Mark sure everyone is engaged and comfortable.

1. Don't get trapped into just focusing on people you know.
2. Some personalities will take longer than others to engage.



How To Create Good Group Dynamics

Set Expectations

A key to helping people feel comfortable in your group is to let them know what to expect. Talk them through **VESPA** and paint a picture for the group you hope you become. Take time to share how the group will flow from week to week. This can include things like explaining the times you will begin and end the group, how discussion or group activities will happen, and how the group will support one another in time of need.

Follow the 70/30 Rule

Give the members of your group room to speak up instead of doing all the talking yourself. About 70% of talking should come from members and 30% from the leader.

Keep the Discussion Positive

If conversation takes a negative or destructive turn, guide it back to a healthy place. If someone needs to talk about a sensitive or complex issue, you can follow up with them after the group or call your coach to help you respond well.

Keep the Conversation Relevant to Everyone

Remember, everyone in your group will be at different places in their spiritual journey. Be thoughtful when you talk about spiritual concepts or church terms that might be unfamiliar to new Christians or new churchgoers. For example, if someone mentions their **Top 5**, explain what that means at Journey.

Respect Boundaries

Men should minister to men and women should minister to women. A couple may minister to a single person. Be wise & discerning. These boundaries will help protect the leaders and group members from entering into an uncomfortable or inappropriate situation.

Facilitating With Excellence

- Start and end on time.
- Strive to be a good listener.
- Be a facilitator, not a lecturer – your goal is to encourage personal interaction and self-discovery.
- Focus on what scripture has to say, not your own ideas or opinions.
- Maintain an atmosphere of love and acceptance, which will lead to open discussion. Never put down a person’s comments or contributions.
- Don’t force anyone to talk, but encourage involvement by calling on reluctant participants by name – this is also an effective way to regulate those who want to talk too much.
- Keep the discussion on track. If new issues are raised, suggest that you return to them after the current discussion is completed.
- Ask good follow-up questions to open up the group and to develop relationships.
- Remember, **the goal is to build relationships**, not necessarily to complete the study guide.
- Be sure to include fun into your semester. Set aside a week to just do something fun as a group.

Deadly Group Distractions

Groups, especially new ones, are like infants. They take care, attention, and nurturing in order to grow and flourish. However, we know that there are things that will stunt growth or cause a group to die completely:

- Inconsistent gatherings
- Not enough members (*open chairs*) or too many members.
- Not addressing a problem member.
- Not communicating with group members.
- Not caring for group members
- Omitting one or more of the 5 essentials for culture (VESPA)
- Not allowing others to participate by sharing responsibility
- Groups are not a place for:
 - Business / Product Sales
 - Offerings
 - Unapproved materials or speakers

Leadership Support

Group leaders are paired with Group Coaches along with our Groups staff who work along side you to invest in your success – you are never alone!

Your coach is your primary resource and lifeline for having a healthy Group. Your coach's priorities are to pray for you and communicate with you to ensure that you have what you need to lead your group well.

Your coach will work with you throughout the semester to make sure that your group is thriving - don't hesitate to reach out to them if you have any needs, prayer requests, or concerns.

Leader Expectations

- Lead the group by facilitating group meetings, monitoring group health, and promoting participation among group members.
- Commit to engaging in communication with your coach and the small groups team throughout each semester.
- Commit to participating in leadership development opportunities provided by the church.
- Identify and recruit future leaders, and embrace their development as a measure of success.
- Rally the group around any member needing care. Use wisdom and be sensitive.

Leader Qualifications

- Be a transformed follower of Christ.
- Regularly attend services at Journey Church
- Give regularly at Journey Church
- Be in complete doctrinal agreement with Journey Church
- Recognize the Bible as the final authority for our lives
- Be in full agreement with the Journey Church Groups Purpose
- Have the time, emotional capacity, & moral discernment to lead a group.
- Have the spiritual maturity to create and maintain a safe and confidential environment for the group members.
- Have a safe and stable home life.

Frequently Asked Questions

CHILDCARE

What are the childcare standards?

We recommend collaborating with others in your group to find a childcare provider that you can all utilize together. If a group decides to provide group childcare, they must provide a clean and safe environment for children. All childcare arrangements that are made are of no affiliation or responsibility of Journey Church, and are made upon your own recourse. Journey Church is not responsible for any actions taken through external group environments.

How do childcare reimbursements work?

Journey Church reimburses \$20 for childcare per meeting. If the group needs to or would like to provide more than \$20 for their childcare provider, the group is responsible for the extra funds.

ONE person per group will submit a reimbursement form, and they must do this by the end of each month. **Requesting several months of reimbursements at one time will not be approved.**

Timeliness is important with these submissions, as the church cannot bear the financial burden of paying out months of childcare reimbursements at once. A friendly reminder will be given for the first late form, but further late reimbursement requests WILL NOT be fulfilled. Please help us be good stewards of this resource for Groups!

The form can be submitted at TheJourneyOnline.com/Childcare.

SESSIONS

What if I miss the deadline to register my group for this Session?

If you do not register your group before the deadline, we ask that you wait until the next session to try again. In the meantime, you can join a group for this session to get a feel for how groups are.

How long is the commitment for leading a group?

Leading a group is a 12 week commitment. After each session ends, it's up to you and your group to decide whether you will continue meeting at the start of the next session.

Why are there Sessions?

It allows group leaders and participants to have built-in breaks throughout the year, and allows them to step out during a particularly busy season of life.

Can my group keep meeting after the Session ends?

We recommend that groups meet on a recreational or outreach basis only during the off-time between sessions. This is a great time to do something outside of your regularly scheduled gathering. It's healthy to take a break from the traditional group setting, so for that reason we do not provide curriculum during the off-time. Just because you take a break from regular meetings, doesn't mean that you have to cut off contact with your group members.

What if my group wants to keep meeting, but I want to step out of leading the group?

Whether you continue leading your group or not, you should always have someone in your group that you are raising up to be a future leader. You can either hand your leadership role to the person you have raised up, or if no one steps up to lead the group, your group members can sign up for different groups at the beginning of the next session.

GROUP SPECIFICS

What types of groups are there?

The main types of groups are Men's, Women's, Couples, & Mixed. Groups are then categorized by their Content Type, which includes Weekend Message Based (follows the current message series), Study Based (uses approved books, video series, or other material), Interest Based (i.e. running, sewing, cycling, etc), and Support Based (such as Financial Peace University, GriefShare, Reboot, that provide specific support to members).

What if no one signs up for my group?

Our online Groups Directory (found at TheJourneyOnline.com/Groups) should be used as a secondary tool for adding people to your group. Inviting people you know and people that you meet is the number one way to add people to your group. Don't wait for them to come to you, go to them!

Why aren't mixed-gender single's groups an option?

We believe in creating an environment for groups that allows everyone in the group to feel comfortable and open to talk about the different issues that can come up during group discussions. This is best achieved with people of the same gender. For those wanting to meet people of the opposite gender, there are many opportunities that people can take advantage of including volunteering on a team at Journey and church-wide events.

When and where do groups meet?

Groups can meet on any day of the week, just not during church service times. Groups can meeting your home, a co-leader's home, or at a location such as a coffee shop or cafe'.

Do we have to meet at a house?

We believe that the best atmosphere for a group is in a home, however, we understand that sometimes that is not an option. Other options for meeting places could include coffee shops or a cafe'.

Do I have to provide snacks at every meeting?

Having snacks and drinks available during a group meeting can change the whole mood of the group and help put people at ease. If you don't want to provide snacks and drinks for every meeting, delegate some of the responsibility to other people in the group and let people take turns.

CURRICULUM

Can I use the curriculum of my choice?

For our **Study & Interest Based** groups, we provide several approved options each semester. If you have a specific curriculum or piece of content you'd like to use that is not approved, then simply submit it to your coach for approval at least 3 weeks prior to the start of the session.

What should I do if someone asks a question I can't answer?

It's okay to not have all the answers. Seriously, we don't have them all! Thankfully, we can find guidance through prayer, God's Word, and the Holy Spirit. Encourage them to spend time reading the Bible and praying. Also, let them know that you will do your best to get some information and get back with them at your next group meeting. Do some personal research and call your coach to get advice.

GENERAL

What should I do if someone in my group shares something with me (or the group) that requires attention beyond what I (or we) can provide?

If you encounter a difficult situation, please know that you are not alone. If a member is going through a crisis, you can rally the group around them to provide prayer, encouragement, and support. Use wisdom and be sensitive to the situation. Contact your coach for more help, if needed.

How can I share stories of life change from my group?

We love hearing about lives that are change through your group! You can your stories with your coach or at stories@thejourneyonline.com

OTHER QUESTIONS

Email groups@thejourneyonline.com with any other questions.

Your First Group Meeting

NOTES FOR LEADING

Your first meeting as a small group is more of a social gathering. You may be eager to jump into the study, but beginning the process of cultivating relationships is essential to the group experience. The depth of your relationships will drive the quality of your discussions. Before the meeting, send your group members an email, text or call confirming the date and time of the meeting and providing them with directions to your meeting place. Let them know the start and end time of your meeting. Letting them know this information helps to create a predictable environment.

This first meeting is also the best time for you to set some expectations for your group. Specifically, talk about **VESPA**.

Have a conversation about caring for your group. The primary way care happens at Journey Church is through groups. Rally everyone around the idea that for the next several weeks, this is our family. When one of the group is going through a circumstance that requires care (hospital visits, prayer, or some other type of support), the group rallies around them and takes care of them.

Vulnerability
Encouragement
Scripture
Prayer
Accountability

ICE BREAKERS

On the night of the meeting, your job is to create an environment in which people can begin to connect. If your group members have already met and are comfortable with one another, you may not have to do much more than provide coffee and snacks or light desserts. If your group is meeting for the first time, you may want to use some ice breakers to help people ease into the conversation.

Using ice breakers is an essential group leader skill. They aren't required all the time, but the right ice breaker can help to open the avenue for great conversation for the evening. Begin with light and informational questions and then move to deeper and more personal levels as the group progresses together. Since this is your first group meeting, you probably want to stick mostly with **Level 1** questions, maybe adding in a few **Level 2** questions near the end of the evening.

NOTE: The **Level 3** ice breakers are here for you to use later in the life of your group and as you move into future studies.

Level 1: Information (*What You **Know***)

Level 2: Opinion (*What You **Think***)

Level 3: Feelings (*Who You **Are***)

ICE BREAKERS (CONT.)

Level 1: Information (*What You Know*)

- What is your favorite movie? Why?
- What is your favorite city? Why?
- What day of your life would you most like to relive? Why?
- What does your name mean? Why were you named that?
- If your house were on fire, what three items would you try to save?
- What is the best gift you ever received as a child?
- If you suddenly lost your eyesight, what would be the thing you would miss seeing the most?
- What was your first job? What do you remember most about it?
- Tell the group a brief story from your wedding day.
- If you could go to college (again), what would you study?
- You have been given a one-year sabbatical from work. What will you do?
- What has been one of the greatest adventures you've ever been on?

Level 2: Opinion (*What You Think*)

- Who is one of your heroes? Why?
- Who is your number one advisor in life? Why?
- My favorite way to spend time is _____.
- Just for the fun/thrill of it, before I die I'd like to _____.
- I was (or would have been) voted "Most Likely to _____" in high school.
- Before I got married, I wish someone had told me _____.
- If you could leave the world one piece of advice before you died, what would you say?
- Who was one of the most interesting people you've ever met?
- Who was the best boss you ever had? What made him or her so good?
- People might be surprised to find out that I _____.
- Describe a grade school teacher that made a big impression on you (for good or bad).

Level 3: Feelings (*Who You Are*)

- What is your biggest fear about death?
- What do you miss most about childhood?
- I am most like my mom/dad in that I _____.
- One of my biggest pet peeves is _____.
- When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?
- For what do you want to be remembered?
- An emotion I often feel but don't usually express is _____.
- Where do you go or what do you do when life gets too heavy for you?
Why?
- In what area of life would you like to have greater peace? Why?
- What is one of your biggest fears about the future?
- When you were a child, what was your favorite time of day?
What did you like about it?
- In general, I worry too much about _____.

ENDING THE MEETING

Before you end the meeting, ask your group members this question:

What do you hope to get out of this group experience?

Let them know what you hope to get out of the experience of leading the group. Then, close with a brief prayer asking God to bless your efforts to grow intentional community and that he would help it to flourish.

Helpful Scripture References

At Journey Church, we believe ministering through the Word of God is the most powerful way to care for people. As you pray over a group member, try inserting that member's name in the Scripture to make it more personalized.

As a leader, we encourage you to find and memorize at least three Scriptures, which will help equip you to walk through a tough situation with someone, as well as provide you with strength as a leader throughout the session.

Here is a list of powerful Scriptures that you can apply to any situation:

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

MARK 12:30-31

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

PROVERBS 3:5-6

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

ISAIAH 55:8-9

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him.”

1 JOHN 5:14-15

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

EPHESIANS 6:10-28

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.”

ROMANS 8:28

"No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me," says the Lord.

ISAIAH 54:17

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago. "

EPHESIANS 2:10

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

JEREMIAH 29:11

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father."

MATTHEW 5:14-16

"No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

ROMANS 8:39

"Stay away from the love of money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never, never fail you nor forsake you." That is why we can say without any doubt or fear, "The Lord is my Helper, and I am not afraid of anything that mere man can do to me."

HEBREWS 13:5-6

"Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."

ISAIAH 41:10

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

JAMES 1:2-4

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

ROMANS 10:17

"One day the apostles said to the Lord, "We need more faith; tell us how to get it." "If your faith were only the size of a mustard seed," Jesus answered, "it would be large enough to uproot that mulberry tree over there and send it hurtling into the sea! Your command would bring immediate results!"

LUKE 17:5-6

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

HEBREWS 11:1

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

JAMES 1:5

“Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.”

PROVERBS 11:14

“So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to Him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.”

ROMANS 8:1-2

“Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

ISAIAH 1:18

“Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.”

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-14