

Group Leader Guide – April 5th, 2026**Group Announcements:**

- April 8th – 29th – Essentials Class for Adults Wednesday Nights @ 6:30 pm! Dinner and Childcare (ages 0-5) provided. Suggested donation \$40.00
- April 12th – LFY Moves to Sunday nights!
- Women's Retreat is coming up Sept 10-12! Registration is OPEN! Be sure to register by June 10th!
- If you would like to host a group in the next season, let your group leader know!

Attendance:

- Group leaders, please submit your attendance by person's name through our Leader Tools page winacity.com/leader-tools –

FELLOWSHIP:

During this time, you may plan for food. This could be anything from just snacks to a full dinner.

Use your group chat and create a place where people can be informed of the times for your group and what to bring for food.

Games are also appropriate. YouTube and Google offer a wide range of games for you to choose from.

WARM UP:

As a starting point for your group discussion, consider asking questions that encourage conversation and help participants share about themselves.

- **Would you rather: always know the outcome of your future OR be surprised but have total peace? Share Briefly. 10 min total time for discussion**

LEARN IT: Jesus Knows Our Sorrows**Read: Isaiah 53:3**

He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

- **What is God exposing in your thinking about Him right now? Share Briefly. Allow 3-5 min for discussion.**

Leader Note: The resurrection didn't remove confusion, pain, or sorrow; it met people in it. Mary came expecting death and found mystery. Today's culture teaches us to chase comfort and avoid pain, but Jesus is the Savior who meets us in our suffering and transforms us through it. To truly know Jesus is to know both His resurrection power and His suffering.

SHARE IT: Surrender Over Self**Read: Matthew 16:26**

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul, or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

What comfort, habit, or identity do you value that you are unwilling to let go of?? Share Briefly. 3-5 min discussion

Leader Note: Jesus confronts a culture of self-centered living with a call to surrender. You don't add Jesus to your life; you exchange your life for His. Real discipleship requires denying yourself, letting go of control, and choosing eternal purpose over temporary gain. The life you're trying to preserve may be the very thing keeping you from the life God wants to give you!

LIVE IT: Take Up Your Cross and Follow Him

Read: Matthew 16:24-25

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

- Have you been asking God to remove something in your life that He wants to meet you in Share Briefly 5-10 min for reflection and prayer (maybe turn on some worship music)

Leader Note: The world defines comfort as the absence of problems, but the Kingdom defines comfort as the presence of God. The same Jesus who suffered is the same Jesus who comforts. Through the Holy Spirit, He is present in our pain, our pressure, and our valleys. And not only does He comfort us, He uses our pain as a bridge to bring comfort to others.

PRAY:

Use a group chat (WhatsApp, Messenger, Instagram, etc.) and add everyone in your group. Post your group's prayer requests here during your meetings and throughout the week. Encourage everyone to pray for these needs daily. You may also post or do live video as a daily encouragement for everyone, like scripture verses, encouraging thoughts, spontaneous hangouts, etc.

- What part of your life do you need to choose obedience over comfort in this week? What is one step you can take to get started? **Leaders, please prepare some YouTube worship music and spend some time with your group waiting in His presence and worshipping Him, while incorporating a chosen expression of worship (raising hands, kneeling etc.)**
- give each group member a chance to pray for any other needs
- Share testimonies with each other; you may send them to stella@winacity.com so we can encourage the church

Suggestion:

- You may lay hands on people who need prayer after you have asked for permission.
- You may also take communion together
- If you have the space and availability, you may do a time of worship

Suggested timeframes for your group:

- 20-30 minutes for fellowship
- 10-15 minutes for Warm up
- 30 minutes for the study
- 10-15 minutes for sharing needs and prayer