

Title: Place in Grace: Teacher // **Scripture:** Ephesians 4:1-16 / Matthew 10

ARRIVAL / SOCIAL TIME *15-20 minutes*

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing with one another. Also find time to catch up together on how the assignments from last week turned out.

SERMON REVIEW *5-10 minutes*

This week Jon finished up our sermon series through Ephesians 4: 1–16 called, “Find Your Place in Grace.” We have looked at the need for apostles, prophets, evangelists and shepherds in our church to help us grow in greater maturity of our representation of Christ in the world. This week we add one more group of leaders to this group—namely, our teachers. Teachers are more than people who give great lectures. In fact, many of the best teachers rarely lecture at all. Instead, teachers are people who live a certain quality of life and help other people take hold of this kind of life and reproduce it in their own life. Jesus was the best teacher of all time because of the remarkable integrity between what He taught and how He lived. By valuing the truth and making the truth accessible to others, teachers help the body grow to more fully look like Jesus.

THE MAIN THOUGHT *keep this in mind as you facilitate discussion*

Teaching is not just about hoping that people respond to a lecture. It’s about helping people reproduce a certain kind of life.

SEE IT – Questions *10-15 minutes*

Picture: Who was your favorite teacher? Why? From whom have you learned the most? Why? Are these two people the same? Why or why not? How did Jon say that teaching was more than a lecture? Why is this important? What was so powerful about Jesus’ teaching?

Mirror: Who have you seen live an effective life? What can you learn from them? Who is looking at your life? What could they learn from you? What would it require for you to live a life from which others could learn? How could you make your life accessible to others?

Window: What do “teachers” help the church do? What would the church look like without teachers? What do teachers look like outside the walls of the church building? How do teachers help people see Jesus? Why is this important if the church is to become a mature representation of Christ in the world?

BE IT – Practice

Change UP // Find Your Fivefold

If your group has not taken a Fivefold assessment, then take a few minutes to let everyone in the group go to <http://www.fivefoldministrytest.com> and do so. After everyone has taken the assessment, or if your group has taken an assessment in the previous weeks, ask each person to identify what they believe their gifting is. Take a moment to brainstorm, as a group, both how each person might put their gifting to use at Grace and in the world (beyond the walls of the building).

Change IN // Maturity Matters *15 minutes*

Break your group into five smaller groups according to each person’s gifting. Give the groups seven minutes to answer the following questions together in their small group:

How could your small group help your community group better grow or express the gifting your small group represents?

Why is it important that your community group grow in this gifting if the community you are trying to reach is going to see a more mature picture of who Jesus is?

After the seven minutes is up, call the groups back together to share their answers with the other groups.

Change OUT // Easter Expectation *5 minutes*

Easter is right around the corner. It’s a great time to start planning how your group might use Easter as a way to get OUT. Holidays are natural opportunities to find ways to meet, celebrate or initiate conversation with your neighbors. Take some time to brainstorm how you might want to use Easter to help your group get OUT. Maybe you want to organize a neighborhood Easter egg hunt or throw an Easter party or deliver Easter baskets to your neighbors with an invitation to come over to your house for a party later this month. Whatever you choose, start the planning and organizing process NOW, so Easter doesn’t become a missed opportunity for your group.

CLOSING PRAYER *5 minutes*

Take a few minutes to gather any prayer requests and pray for each other to SEE IT and BE IT this week.