

How to use the SEE IT BE IT Sheet

Welcome

If you are a leader of a Small Group or nCommunity, we hope you know how much we, as The Adult Ministry Team, appreciate you and all that God is doing through you to help the Grace Family of Churches further demonstrate and spread the work of the kingdom throughout our neighborhoods, nations and next generation. We believe that you are doing important work. Even more, we believe that Jesus is better seen and understood because of your relentless commitment to embody his words, ways and works and help others do the same.

In that vein, we also hope you know that we believe our job as The Adult Ministry Team is to help, sometimes coach and often resource you to be the best leader that God has called you to be and to fulfill the vision that He has laid on your heart for your group. That is why we are excited to introduce you to what we believe might be a helpful resource in your planning, development and delivery of your group time together each week. This resource is the Small Group Discussion Guide—also known as the **SEE IT BE IT Sheet**. Below, you will discover our vision for what we believe this resource will provide, a brief tutorial on how to use the guide and an expectation of when and how you can expect this resource to be available. While we are not requiring groups to use this guide, our hope is that by providing a consistent and reliable framework for you and your team, each of you as leaders will be more empowered to lead life transforming group discussions and lead exercises that put into practice what we are learning together as a family each week. We also believe that as more and more groups do decide to use the sheet together, our sense of unity and direction as a church will become increasingly clear and powerful.

So thanks again for all that you do. We look forward to creating the future together with you!

Vision

The Small Group Discussion Guide is produced to help small groups and nCommunities take the life transforming truths that we learn each week, understand them, see ourselves and our world through them and put them into practice in our relationship with God and others. In other words, instead of just hearing a great talk each week and hoping the word we hear takes root in our lives, we want to create groups that both SEE IT and BE IT!

How to Use

We feel it might be helpful if we lay out a couple of different things so that you as the leader might know both what we are choosing to provide and what we hope you will bring to the table. Below is an acknowledgement of our chosen limitations, an explanation of the structure of the guide and our hopeful invitation/expectation of you as a leader we want to empower:

Limitation: We believe that everything we want to resource and produce should be lightweight and low maintenance. In that spirit, we want you to know that we have chosen to limit The Small Group Discussion Guide (The SEE IT BE IT Sheet) to a one-page resource. This is difficult for us because there are lots of things beyond this page with which we would love to resource you. But, in choosing this limitation, we are hoping to deliver the basic essentials to you in a way that is efficient for you to put into practice. We admit that we are making ourselves vulnerable by not covering some things, but our hope is that by making this as downloadable, printable and digestible as possible, that we are actually doing more by doing less. We believe we can do this primarily because we believe in you, as leaders, to provide what the resource can't provide!

Structure: This resource is developed in two primary directions. First, we want people to understand, comprehend and relate to the fundamental ideas of God's word we experience every Sunday in a way that helps them SEE the truth. Secondly, we want to people put these truths into practice in order to BE the truth in their relationship with God and others. That is why every week we will try to summarize our time together with both a Sermon Review and quick synopsis of the Main Thought. That is also why we are structuring our Small Group process into two parts—SEE IT and BE IT! Below is an explanation of each of these journeys:

SEE IT: The SEE IT portion of the resource is designed to help us understand and apply what God is saying to us both in our lives and to our world. By breaking this section into the progression of picture, mirror and window our hope is that we will all internalize the truth of God's word in ways that help us not only grasp what the speaker was talking about but also change the way we see ourselves and our world through the gospel. For any paradigm shift to be fully embraced, each of these moves is important. Further, we choose this journey because it is exactly the approach that Jesus himself used in his teaching—every parable could be seen through the lens of picture, mirror and window.

Picture: The picture questions are basic factual questions that help us see and understand the fundamental truth we are dealing with each week.

Mirror: The mirror questions help us see ourselves through this truth. By seeing ourselves through the truth, we will both confirm and encourage the places where God and the gospel is currently working in our lives as well as identify new places in ourselves where the gospel might be calling us to repent and change.

Window: The window questions are designed to help us see the whole world through the truth and gospel we have now understood and experienced in our own lives. By seeing the world through God's truth, we now re-imagine what life in the kingdom might look like.

BE IT: The BE IT portion of the resource is designed to help us practice what we hope will become normal in our life with God and others. By breaking this section into the progression of UP, IN and OUT, our hope is that we will all demonstrate the truth we have learned in every dimension of our lives. We believe these dimensions of UP, IN and OUT are demonstrated in the life of Jesus himself, so applying the truth of God in these dimensions will help us embody the words, ways and works of Jesus. Below is a description of what we hope each of these applications will accomplish:

UP: The UP exercises help us apply the truth we have learned into our ongoing relationship with God. By doing these exercises together as a community, our hope is that we will discover together what our personal relationship with God might look like.

IN: The IN exercises help us experience, as a discipling community, what the truth of God might look like together. Because following God is not simply an individual endeavor, by embracing this truth together we find what a true kingdom community might look like.

OUT: The OUT exercises help us demonstrate the kingdom truth as a missional community to the world we live in every day. By living as a true kingdom community in every aspect of our life, our hope is that more people might see exactly what they have been created to embrace and therefore enter the kingdom by our gospel presence and proclamation in their lives.

Invitation/Expectation: As we have acknowledged earlier, we have limited this resource in many ways, because we believe in each of you as leaders. What we hope is that in this limitation that you will receive an invitation to participate in the resource by providing your own insight, experience and expertise. By combining what God shows you in each service with what our team designs, we believe you will make this a dynamic opportunity to combine your own experience and expertise with what we have produced for you. This means we need your help. We invite/expect each of you to come to the service both as a recipient and as a producer. Using your own understanding of supporting Scripture and life journey, we hope that you will feel free to expand, substitute or further develop the journey for your group. Please feel free to make each weekly journey fit your own life journey as a community. Know that this is not only invited but expected. Your group needs your leadership, and while we have tried to get your imagination started in this resource, we by no means believe our thoughts or suggestions are the end point. So, join us in this response by being an active participant and leader in each week and feel free to improve the resource to actively fit your group.

Availability

Because Grace Fellowship Church is an apostolic and movemental kind of culture, we as leaders are often hesitant to pre-orchestrate the responses that God might be calling us to ahead of time. Instead, while we do believe in planning, we want to provide structures and resources that adapt and respond quickly to what God is doing in the room and not just force ourselves into what we have hoped God might do. That is why each Small Group Discussion Guide will be developed in real time and not beforehand. While our format and structure will remain the same and provide a predictable pattern of response, each guide will be produced from a team of people sitting in a real service, making note of what the Holy Spirit is doing in the room and then appropriately generating pathways of response to these moments.. Because we know the form, we believe that we will be able to generate the guides in a timely and efficient manner, easily downloadable from the internet at my.gfc.tv. in the Small Group and nCommunity Leader section. It will be generated in an easy to print format and available each Sunday by 3:00 p.m.

Go to gfc.tv/snellville/seeitbeit after 3:00 p.m. each Sunday and download the Small Group Discussion Guide.

Closing

Thanks again for joining with us on this journey. We look forward to the incredible stories of life change and community development we believe you will lead and experience each week. Please feel free to engage any of our team for help and to report the good things that God is doing. In case you want to see what this journey might look like in advance, we have also attached a sample of what each week might look like from a service we have previously experienced together. Please look through the sample and see how we have used the format above to implement this approach together. As always, please know that we are here to help you if you have any questions or need further clarification.