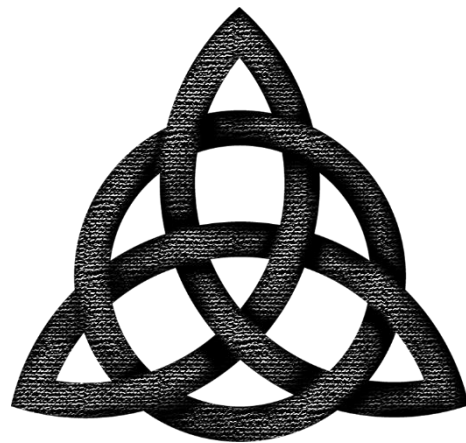
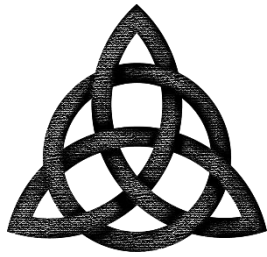


Circle of Three

Handbook



Lord's Grace Christian Church



Circle of Three

"A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Ecclesiastes 4:12

Circles of Three are a way for the church family to stay connected during this time of COVID-19. Your Circle is a chance to gather, in person or online, and have a safe place to laugh, cry, share and pray.

This handbook is provided to you to get you started and to use as you like. You can also not use it. But we recommend that your Circle meet weekly, even if each meeting is only 30 minutes, and end in a time of sharing and prayer for each other. Commit to 12 weeks together and then decide after those if you would like to continue for an additional 6-12 weeks. We've provided a study for the first 6 weeks worth of meetings (called "rounds"). After that, you can decide how you would like to continue.

Some ideas of things you can do with your Circle at different times: study a Bible passage, go for a socially-distanced walk or hike, read and discuss a book or biography together, memorize a verse of Scripture every week, pray for others or for your community, connect with a missionary and pray for them. What we most want you to do is to be able to go through this unique time of life with others and to know you are not alone.

The Circle Covenant

Our Circle is committed to confidentiality, trust, and generous compassion as we share our lives together. The things we share about our lives will stay in the group unless permission is given to tell others. Our Circle is a safe space. We will be present for each other physically and emotionally and free ourselves from distractions as we meet. Our Circle is a priority. We will strive to put the care of others above our own in following the example of Christ. Our Circle is a place of care.

Round 1

Ecclesiastes 4:12 – “A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

Icebreaker

What has been the best day you’ve had during shelter-in-place?

Activity

Read the Circle Covenant at the beginning of the handbook aloud together.

Discuss

What does this covenant mean to you?

Which part of it is the most important to you?

Which part might be the most challenging for you?

Prayer

Take time to share any burdens or prayer requests and pray for each other.

Round 2

*“Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.” – Psalm 46:10*

Icebreaker

What’s the best adjustment you’ve made to your daily routine that has made life easier?

Activity

Read Psalm 46 in its entirety.

Discuss

Do you feel like it’s more difficult than usual to feel God’s presence right now?

Why do you think that is?

How do you generally respond when you feel like you’re out of control of your life?

Why do you think the psalmist’s response is to ‘be still?’ How do you think that would work for you?

Prayer

Take time to share any burdens or prayer requests and pray for each other.



Round 3

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" – Luke 10:27

Icebreaker

Who has had the biggest impact for you in the last few months? It could be a positive or negative impact.

Activity

Read Luke 10:25-37, the Parable of the Good Samaritan

Discuss

Has there ever been a time when someone has been neighborly to you?
What are the characteristics of the kind of good neighbor Jesus is describing?
Who is someone in your life who could use a neighbor right now?

Prayer

Pray for the people you know who could use a neighbor. Ask God to inspire you to find ways to care for them.

Round 4

*"The LORD your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing." – Zephaniah 3:17*

Icebreaker

How will you celebrate after the pandemic is under control?

Activity

Read James 1:2-4

Discuss

Has there ever been a time when a trial you've gone through has led to joy?
Why is it so hard to see the possibility of good when we endure trials?
Where have you seen God during this pandemic?

Prayer

Take time to share any burdens or prayer requests and pray for each other.



Round 5

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” – 2 Chronicles 7:14

Icebreaker

Tell about a time when God answered your prayer.

Activity

Read Matthew 6:9-13, The Lord’s Prayer

Discuss

What does it look like when you talk to God?

Which part of the Lord’s Prayer do you need to incorporate into your own prayer life?

Prayer

Take time to share any burdens or prayer requests and pray for each other.

Round 6

“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

Icebreaker

What food do you miss the most during the pandemic?

Activity

Share a short (3 minute) video that has given you joy or made you laugh. Each person should choose one.

Discuss

What are things you can do to find moments of joy every day?

Prayer

Take time to share any burdens or prayer requests and pray for each other.

