A NOTE TO COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS

Thank you for faithfully serving and caring for the people God has entrusted to your group. As we begin this eleven-week journey through the *One Another* commands, we want to encourage you to remember that your role is more than facilitating a Bible study. You are helping cultivate a community where people are known, cared for, and encouraged to grow as disciples of Jesus.

Prepare Prayerfully and Lead with God's Word

Before each gathering, read the passages, review the teaching, and pray for your group. Come prepared to guide meaningful conversations rooted in Scripture. You do not need to have every answer. Be willing to learn alongside your group as you encourage one another to know, follow, and reflect Christ.

Cultivate Authentic and Gracious Community

Some weeks may expose wounds, habits, fears, or conflicts. Create space for honest conversations while allowing people to move at a wise pace. Encourage vulnerability without pressuring anyone to disclose personal experiences. Listen well, make room for quieter voices, and remind your group that grace and truth belong together.

Help establish a culture of confidentiality, reminding members that personal stories shared within the group should be protected, except when safety requires appropriate help.

Encourage Participation and Practical Obedience

Each week includes opportunities for personal reflection, group discussion, and practical application. Encourage members to come prepared, engage with Scripture, and take one small, concrete step of obedience.

Remember, transformation rarely comes from information alone. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God's Word shapes us as we respond in faith and obedience. Help your group move beyond discussing the commands to practicing them in their relationships throughout the week.

A NOTE TO COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS

Shepherd with Wisdom and Know Your Limits

Community Groups are places of meaningful spiritual care, but leaders are not expected to serve as pastors, counselors, therapists, or conflict mediators. When serious concerns involving abuse, danger, addiction, trauma, or mental health arise, do not attempt to manage them alone. Involve appropriate pastoral leadership and qualified professional help as needed.

Your Community Group Care Team is available to encourage, support, and help you navigate situations requiring additional guidance. You are not leading alone.

Keep Christ at the Center

Above all, remember that Jesus is the reason we pursue authentic and gracious community. We do not practice the *One Another* commands to earn God's acceptance, but because we have received His grace and are being transformed into His likeness.

Lead with humility, patience, prayer, and love. Trust the Holy Spirit to do the work of transformation as you faithfully point your group to Christ.

Thank you for helping make Authentic and Gracious Community more than a stated value at Chicago West. May it become a way of life among us.