



RIDGEPOINT CHURCH • GROW GROUPS GUIDE

Up, In, and Out

WEEK 1

Finding Your Direction

LUKE 6:12–19 • JOHN 15:1–17

Brent Warkentin ● August 1, 2026

LEADER PREPARATION

Thank you for being willing to lead your Grow Group. A couple of reminders:

- Make sure to encourage everyone to share.
- Remind about kid care.
- See about taking off for Thanksgiving week.

Opening (10 min)**OPENING QUESTION**

Would you say you have a good sense of direction, or do you get lost easily? Share a story of a time you were “directionally challenged” — or a time your internal compass saved the day.

OPENING PICTURE — OVERVIEW

This week launches a new series on living a directionally proficient life — not north, south, east, and west, but UP (a daily relationship with God), IN (a shared life with other believers), and OUT (an outward-focused faith). In Luke 6:12–19, Jesus models all three: He prayed all night on the mountain (up), He called and invested in twelve disciples (in), and He came down to heal and serve the crowd (out). Pastor Brent also previewed Ridgepoint’s “Deep and Wide” push this fall — going deep through 30–40 new Grow Groups launching in September, and going wide through a new Sending Service launching August 23. Today’s teaching focuses primarily on UP; IN and OUT will be explored in the weeks ahead.



UP • 20 MIN

A Daily Relationship with God**BIG IDEA**

God must be the #1 priority in our lives — the center. Jesus calls us to “remain” in Him: to stay closely, continually connected the way a branch stays connected to a vine. Connection with God isn’t complicated, but it is costly — it takes daily, intentional effort, not just good intentions.

SCRIPTURE AT THE CENTER**Luke 6:12**

“In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.”

Jesus, who had every reason to be busy, made prayer His priority — often withdrawing to pray before the demands of ministry (see also Mark 1:35). If Jesus needed consistent time alone with the Father, so do we.

John 15:4

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself, unless it remains in the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.”

“Remain” (or “abide”) means to stay closely connected — the way a branch draws life from a vine. Jesus never lets go of us; the question is whether we stay close to Him.

John 15:5–7

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Jesus repeats "remain" five times in these verses because staying connected is that important. Fruitfulness isn't produced by effort alone — it flows out of abiding in Him.

John 15:9–10

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love."

This isn't a conditional command — "behave and I'll keep loving you." It's an invitation to rest in a love that is already unending and unconditional. We stay close not to earn His love, but because we already have it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ On a scale of 1–10, how connected do you feel to God right now? What's one thing that would move that number higher?
- ◆ Pastor Brent shared five practical ways to connect UP: talking to and listening to Jesus, reading and doing what the Bible says, connecting with other believers, contributing to Jesus' mission, and thinking about Him often throughout the day. Which one do you most want to grow in this week, and why?
- ◆ What's the difference between treating these five practices as "check-the-box" duties versus joyful responses to God's love? How does that shift change the way you approach time with God?
- ◆ Jesus says His love for us doesn't depend on our performance (John 15:9–10). Is that easy or hard for you to believe? Why?

**IN • 15 MIN****A Shared Life Together****WHY THIS MATTERS**

We were never meant to grow in isolation. In Luke 6:13, Jesus calls twelve disciples to "do life together" — not to build a resume, but to invest in real relationships. The Bible is full of "one another" commands (love, forgive, encourage, comfort, admonish one another) that simply cannot be obeyed alone. Connecting IN with other believers actually strengthens our UP connection with God.

GROWING TOGETHER

This fall, Ridgepoint is going “deep” by launching 30–40 new Grow Groups in September — sign-ups open next week. Every Grow Group commits to the same three directions this lesson is built on: UP (Bible study and prayer), IN (caring for and encouraging one another), and OUT (a group project that serves beyond themselves).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ Jesus intentionally chose people to “do life” with. Who are the people currently doing life with you spiritually? Is there anyone God might be nudging you to invite closer in?
- ◆ What holds people back from meaningful spiritual community — busyness, past hurt, fear of being known? What’s held you back?
- ◆ Ridgepoint is launching dozens of new Grow Groups this fall. What excites you, and what makes you hesitant, about jumping into (or leading) a group?

**OUT • 10 MIN****An Outward-Focused Faith****APPLICATION — LIVING IT OUT**

Jesus didn’t stay on the mountain — He came down to heal and serve the crowd (Luke 6:17–19). A life connected UP and IN should overflow OUT. Ridgepoint’s “wide” push is a new Sending Service launching Sunday, August 23 at 11:00 a.m. in the Activity Center — a step toward eventually sending a team to launch a new Ridgepoint campus in Wichita.

Pastor Brent’s closing challenge: of the five ways to connect UP, which one are you willing to put extra effort into this week?

TIME TO FOCUS ON GROUP PROJECT — LIVING IT OUT

Community formed only for itself eventually turns inward. As your group continues building trust and life together, now is a good time to begin looking outward together as well.

Before your next meeting, spend a few minutes individually browsing Ridgepoint’s vetted list of local ministries and service opportunities at ridgepointwichita.com/out. Come to Week 5 with one or two options that caught your attention and a brief sense of why.

You don’t need to make a decision yet — just start paying attention to what rises to the surface for you personally. Next week, you’ll discern and decide together.

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together by inviting the group to share prayer requests. Then lead the group in prayer, drawing from these prompts from today's sermon:

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray that each person would grow in whichever of the five UP practices they identified today — talking with Jesus, reading Scripture, connecting with others, serving His mission, or thinking of Him often.
- Pray for those in the group who feel distant from God, that they would trust He has never let go of them (John 15:4).
- Pray for Ridgepoint's Grow Group launch this September and the new Sending Service launching August 23 — that many would step into deeper community and wider impact.
- Pray that this group would grow not out of obligation, but out of joy in God's unconditional love for us (John 15:9–10).



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