



Groups are regular, long haul space to **share, care, trust and grow**. Welcome!

Facilitator Prep: Read the guide & [message notes](#). Note your own thoughts to grease the wheels. Trust the 3 strands showing up!

Get Started

10-15 mins

- **Welcome!** Greg has a perspective he's used for the past 17 years (his pitching mound). Its purpose hasn't been to make us agree with him but to get us thinking... together... about the stuff that matters. So what's at the heart of Fabric and how can we distinguish that from how Greg has done it. Let's talk!
- **Choose a tangible way to set apart this time.** Light a candle, raise your cups, your 3-strands...create your own ritual!
- Review the **Group Agreements** each week. Take your time, passing around to read. The start of a new series is a good time to talk more about why these matter. Highlight one and invite others to do the same.
- **Check-In.** Share names and something you came for today. *What is something you are hoping for from this time together?* May all that be so! The hardest part is done. You've already pushed pause and showed up.

Discussion & Practice Ideas

30-60 mins

1. **Warm up.** Read the swirl of Fabricisms winding around the back of the [Sunday Paper](#) this week. *Choose one you are curious about or particularly love. Talk about these in 2s or 3s. Or invite everyone to share one they have found meaningful.*
2. **Your ahas and questions.** *What was something you heard that made you think differently or was a new insight about Fabric? And what other questions do you have for Greg? Send them to him. Seriously, right now! greg@fabricmpls.com*
3. **Greg's approach to the Bible?** Get a taste for yourselves by reading the two right-after-Christmas stories he suggested for [ROAM](#) this week: *Matthew 2.13-21* and *Luke 2.21-40*. They both tell about Mary, Joseph and young Jesus leaving to settle in Nazareth. **Try this.** *Split into two groups. Each gets one of the stories to read together then come back in 10 minutes to verbally tell the story to the other group. Talk about what you discover!*

Close

5-15 mins

Take aways. Invite everyone to share one. Thanks for these gifts you've given each other. May they keep on giving!

Check in on plans for upcoming meetings: who is facilitating, providing hospitality, or other needs of your group. *Remember, anyone is welcome to serve the group as facilitator.* **Next meeting:**



THE GOSPEL

According to **Greg**



Week 1
07 Jan 2024
Fabric Group Guide

Group Agreements

1. **Push pause.** The world is noisy. Before speaking, take a breath.... let Silence be a voice in your Group.
2. **Be present.** Your being here matters! Step up to share when you are ready. Step back to listen.
3. **Share what you want** when you want. "I'll pass" is always an option.
4. **Confidentiality.** Always ask before sharing anything outside the group, even if it is with the most supportive of intentions.
5. **Wonder over judgment.** Stay curious about yourself and others. Practice open and honest questions. Asking "how" not "why" can take you on a tour instead of a trial of yourself and others.
6. **Listening is a superpower.** Listening to others share their own experiences, struggle and strength is empowering. So is being listened to!
7. **Speak from your own experience,** to the whole group. Ask for help or feedback for yourself if you'd like, but avoid crosstalk, fixing, interpretation, or unsolicited advice directed toward another group member.

These agreements are practiced, not perfected! You can always circle back with the group or an individual to share how something felt to you or check in. Here's an [article](#) on how to apologize well. Practice when it's easy!

Sometimes there will be care and support needs that go beyond what can be addressed within your normal group operation. That's a good time to pull out the [Care IQ](#) tools.

