



## STEP 2: GET SPECIFIC ABOUT NEXT STEPS

A group at Chase Oaks is a small gathering of **friends** committed to taking **next steps** in their relationship with Jesus together each season. This means your role as the leader is **to help friendships deepen** and **encourage everyone to take next steps** in faith. That all sounds nice, but what does it actually look like to take next steps? A disciple is a Christ-follower who is maturing in **faith, hope, and love**. To break that down into a few examples, look at the list below.

### FAITH

- Starting a relationship with Jesus
- Trusting Jesus more and more that He is who He said He is and will do what He said He would do
- Getting baptized
- Doing *Established*
- Learning how to share the Gospel
- Engaging more with the Bible (the story overall, a particular book, or techniques on how to interact with it on a daily basis)
- Learning more about God (theology)
- Processing tricky questions and doubts

### HOPE

- Navigating current events and cultural issues with grace and truth
- Discovering my strengths and gifts, and using them to further God's mission
- Not putting hope in money and financial gain; growing in generosity
- Serving on a team at Chase Oaks Church that makes a difference
- Better understanding racial injustice and embracing my role to help in reconciliation
- Processing shame, guilt, addictive behavior through the hope of Jesus
- Finding hope in the midst of chaos

### LOVE

- Loving God through spending more time with Him (prayer, reading Scripture, silence)
- Improving my relationship with my spouse or significant other
- Improving my relationship with my kids or family members
- Becoming a better communicator and listener in all my relationships
- Developing more authentic friendships
- Loving others through difficult circumstances

**Look at the names on page 1 again. Now look at the list of different next steps. What are some next steps you think different individuals might need to take in your group? List out different ones below.**

Think about your group collectively. If you had to focus on one area (faith, hope, love) this season, which one would you choose for the fall? Circle one:

FAITH

HOPE

LOVE

Why?

What is a big goal or two you would have for the fall semester for your group? Here are a few examples you can circle – or you can write down others not listed.

- Get new blood and new energy – we’ve been lacking it for a bit
- Become better friends with each other in the group – more authentic, more committed, more loving, more consistent
- Develop relational skills – improve our marriages, our parenting styles, or communication techniques
- Go to the next level in our relationship with God. Dive into His Word and learn how to apply it
- Help each other through difficult circumstances. Show up for one another in a loving, caring way.
- Have more fun as a group. Let’s face it, we’ve gotten a bit stale and boring.
- Help each other serve. Discover giftings and then encouraging each other to do something with it!
- Encouraging each other – we all need some wind in our sails because of everything going on!
- Empower leadership. We know we’ve got several future leaders in our group. We need to hand off more ownership of this group this semester.
- We need to actually share our stories and testimonies with one another. It’s been awhile since we’ve done that.
- There are some troubling/problematic issues brewing. We need to address those in a loving way.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 3: PRAY**

Look at the names again. Pray for each person, asking God for wisdom on how you can best encourage them to take next steps in their walk with Jesus.

Pray for your group as a whole, that God would help friendships develop and deepen this season.

Pray for yourself as the leader or co-leader, asking that God would protect you, your relationships, and give wisdom to lead well.

**STEP 4: NARROW DOWN**

Now look at the list of resources for the upcoming semester. You can find that [here](#).

**How much homework do you think your group members would be willing to do if they were passionate about the topic (be honest!).**

1	2	3	4	5
None		Some		A good amount if worthwhile!

Based on your assessment and answers from all the sections, what three choices stand out to you the most?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 5: PROCESS WITH SOMEBODY ELSE**

Finally, talk about your observations, assessments, and top three choices with another person. If you have a co-leader, talk with them. Connect with your coach if you can as well. Then, select the study you think will help your group have a great semester.

**Our study for the fall is:** \_\_\_\_\_