

Leader Corner

Refocus Week 2

God's Grace

Ephesians 3:14-21

We are praying for all of us to “ReFocus” on the most important things in life: *Who God is and who we are in light of Him.* This week is designed to illuminate God’s grace. The depths, breadth, and width of God’s grace is rarely fully understood. Yet, when we catch glimpses or experience moments saturated with God’s grace we are transformed. The fullness of God’s grace is that it covers all of us. The big question is how do we respond to his grace and live it out with those around us?

Main Idea: *God’s grace is immeasurable*

Main Practice: *Confession and Forgiveness*

Main Teaching: *Ephesians 3:14-21*

One more thing; allow space for group members to sit and wrestle with the vastness of God’s grace. You may even want to allow some quiet time during your group gathering for members to allow scripture and truth to need itself into hearts and minds.

Refocus with Praise

This week’s main idea is that God’s grace is immeasurable. Often, musical worship can open our minds and hearts to experience Biblical truth.

One of the songs we sang on Sunday, “[Because of Christ](#),” reminds us of His grace.

Another recent worship song “Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)” can help your group focus on this theme of grace.

Even the older hymn “Just As I Am” made popular through Billy Graham crusades, is rich with experiencing God’s grace.

Encourage your group to engage in musical worship.

After a time of praise, read the following passage aloud as a group:

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your loving kindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and guilt and cleanse me from my sin.”— Psalm 51:1-2 AMP

with Prayer

Have someone in your group pray the following prayer of gathering:

“Lord, make us instruments of your peace! Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. Amen”

(Saint Francis of Assisi, from *A Guide to Prayer*— Upper Room Books)

As the saying goes, “hurt people, hurt people, and grace filled people fill people with grace.” Ok, that later part might be made up. However, there is a marked difference between someone who has received and been filled with grace, truth, and love, and someone who is shackled in shame, guilt, and unforgiveness.

All too easily we can substitute the radical, captivating, and all-encompassing grace and love of God with a calculated, ritualistic, and limiting approach to our identity and relationship with Jesus. The unknown wonder of God’s grace can sometimes be intimidating, but that comes from an incomplete experience of the purpose of God’s grace.

Scripture proclaims the fullness of new life we can have right now in Jesus. Our passage this week proclaims the multidimensional nature of God’s grace (“that you may be fully capable of comprehending the width and length and height and depth of His love”). This 4D kind of love is different and often foreign from our experiences but is transformational when personally experienced. As we study God’s grace, may we allow ourselves to be stretched. May we open up doors that are currently closed to God’s grace. May we not try to manufacture grace, but may we receive the fullness of God’s grace.

1. Have someone read Ephesians 3:14-21 in the Amplified Version/Translation.
 - a. What phrases stand out to you, or even cause you to pause?
 - b. How does this passage describe God’s grace? Where have you seen this grace on display recently in your life?
 - c. How would you explain God’s grace to a friend, family member, or neighbor?
2. Pastor Ben emphasized on Sunday that understanding God’s love for us (His grace) is so important for our faith.
 - a. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. Why is grace pivotal in the Gospel story?
 - b. What is your motive in following Jesus?
3. As a group Read Matthew 18:21-35. What lesson(s) does Jesus teach us in this parable of the unmerciful servant?
4. Take some time to quietly reflect. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the following:
 - a. In what areas or relationships in your life do you need to give more grace?
 - b. In what areas or relationships in your life might you need to ask for grace/forgiveness?

Read Romans 6:22-23 as a group, then break into smaller groups. During this smaller group time, allow space to confess anything that comes to your mind and heart. Then pray and ask the Holy Spirit to wash and cleanse you of all things confessed. Encourage anyone who shares.

Have a group member close your gathering time by speaking this benediction:

“Loving Father, clothe us in yourself and enable us to live and serve after the pattern of your grace. May we go forth with the calm assurance that your unparalleled love surrounds, upholds, and preserves us in all things.

Amen.”

For Further Study

The following Scripture passages underline the grace of God.

- Genesis 22:1-18
- Psalm 13
- Romans 4:13-18
- Matthew 9:9-13