



Grace Is Greater

Discussion Guide

Recently, I heard “we need to stop complaining about 2020 and just have joy.” That’s easier said than done! In this season, of course we do need to be grateful. But most importantly, we need to be gracious to others. In order to show grace, we have to first fully experience God’s grace to us. We need to understand the underserved mercy we have received, then pass it on. This week, let’s grow in grace, learning to be patient and merciful in our responses and reactions to others. This in turn will lead to joy!

Jump Start

1. Do you recall a time when you were given something completely unearned, unexpected, or much more costly than you felt you deserved?
2. **Read Ephesians 2:8 and Romans 8:1.** *We are saved and kept by grace.* Which is easier to experience: the grace of salvation or the ongoing freedom from condemnation and sin? How do you know you are saved? How do you experience ongoing grace?
3. **Read 2 Peter 3:18 and Colossians 4:6.** *We can grow in grace.* Since it is possible to grow in grace, how do we make the changes that help us grow? Share something that helps you put aside anger and judgment and show grace. Or maybe something that helps you in another area, like forgiving others or extending mercy. One thing we can do is work on our mouths. What practical ways do you control ungracious words or intentionally share gracious words?
4. **Read 1 Peter 4:10.** *We can serve others.* How does this affect the graciousness in our lives? Why does serving make a difference? Share a time when serving someone else poured grace into your own life. Do you know your own gift?
5. **Read Matthew 18:21-35.** In this discussion between Jesus and His disciples, He tells a parable to illustrate mercy and forgiveness. Mentally place yourself in every role in this passage. Have you ever been Peter, questioning Jesus? Have you been the gracious king? The man who owed the huge debt of ten thousand bags of gold? Have you ever been the “fellow servant” and been treated harshly? Look carefully and share with your group what you have learned.
6. **Pray This Prayer:** Heavenly Father, help me to serve others with grace. Help me to use my giftedness to be a blessing to my family, my friends, my coworkers, and those I encounter. Guide my tongue and help me to keep it in check. Let my conversations be filled with grace, peace and love. Allow my words to bring honor and glory to You. Father, thank you for loving me and helping me and giving me grace when I do not deserve it. Thank you for my portion. Guide me and lead the way. I love you Lord. Amen

Deeper

We will learn how to complete a **S O A P Bible Study** by looking at a passage of Scripture and breaking it down. **S O A P** stands for **S**cripture **O**bervation **A**pplication **P**rayer. Let's get ready to sit down with the Bible and see to what God wants to show us. Completing this study during your quiet time, then sharing with your Life Group, can allow for deeper understanding and revelation of new perspectives. **Things you will need:** Bible, Notebook, Pen.

Have you ever heard of a "Grace Day?" A day to catch up on your Bible reading, your chores around the house, or a day to just rest and pray. I know many of us long for that stillness and quiet. Maybe you feel like you have had a ton of "Grace Days," but they were not as fruitful as you would like. Psalm 139:1-2 says "Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I stand up; you understand my thoughts from far away." God knows us and He cares about us. Even though we do not deserve grace, He gives it to us freely. God has given us everything we need to live a life of godliness. Let's dive into what God's grace to us looks like.

7. **Scripture.** Read [John 8:36](#), [John 1:14](#), [Ephesians 2:10](#), [2 Peter 1:3](#), [Romans 3:24](#), and [Ephesians 4:6-7](#). What stood out to you the most about God's grace for you?

Take time to read this passage and allow God to speak to you. Jot down anything that made you stop and pause or anything that you questioned. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you and write it out fully in your journal.

8. **Observe.** What is God saying to you in these verses? What overarching theme or promise did you see? What did the specific verse that you were drawn to teach you?

What do you think God is saying to you, personally and specifically, in these Scriptures? (You can even have a short prayer at this point, asking the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you. Remember that He promised to give us wisdom and reveal truth to us when we ask.)

9. **Application.** How will you apply what God showed you through these verses? How does this encourage you in your journey so that you will live a life both experiencing and sharing grace?

Personalize what you have read by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or correction in an area of your life. Write down how this Scripture applies to you today.

10. **Pray.** Pray about what you read in [John 8:36](#), [John 1:14](#), [Ephesians 2:10](#), [2 Peter 1:3](#), [Romans 3:24](#), and [Ephesians 4:6-7](#). Pray about what God reveled to you about His grace to us, asking Him to help you understand and apply it.

This prayer can be as simple as asking God to help you use this Scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so take time here! Be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out. Journaling your quiet time helps you to see what God is teaching you over time.