

Connect Group Studies



'Bringing God and people together'

To Understand and Learn to Live in Grace.

A kid was in Sunday school class, and the teacher was going over the verses about 'having the faith of a mustard seed.'

The kid leaned over to a friend and asked, 'How much faith does a mustard seed have?' Our experience of Grace can be a bit like that too. You can have as much as you think you need, or as much as you're willing to receive.

Q: What is Grace? What is your definition of Grace?

Summary Answers to use if required - if your group needs help:

There is an acrostic for the word GRACE: **G**od's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense.

Another definition is: Grace is God enabling us to do with ease, that which would be impossible in our own natural strength.

Grace is the free, undeserved love and spiritual advantage and all the benefits God gives us.

We know that Grace is given so we can be saved (*Ephesians 2:5&8*)

Q: Why else does God give us Grace? Are there other benefits and uses for Grace beyond being saved?

Summary if required

Grace is the work of the Spirit in us, making the Father's love known to us, giving us the strength to obey his will and get through tough times, and the ability to enjoy our lives.

Q: What areas of your life do you experience Grace? Tell us an example.

Q: What areas of your life do you experience struggle?

Q: What do you think Grace would look like in those circumstances?

Read 2 Timothy 1:9

Read James 4:6

The Amplified version says ...But He gives us more and more Grace (power of the Holy Spirit, to meet this evil tendency and all others fully). That is why He says: God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives Grace [continually] to the lowly (those who are humble enough to receive it).

Q: How do you get Grace?

Read the last sentence of James 4:2 *Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.*

Q: Do you usually just do your best, or do you often go to God desperate for help?

Read Galatians 3:3-4

Read 1 Peter 5:10-12

Q: Thinking about how your day went today, were you more Self-reliant or Grace-reliant?

Grace-reliance

We need to learn to rely on God. God's Grace gives wisdom from above; our fights and many of our struggles are unnecessary and evil because they express our self-reliance instead of Grace-reliance; God gives Grace to the humble. Humility before God and before each other is emphasized repeatedly in the Bible. Grace-reliance is the most far-reaching, life-changing, radical stance we need to learn.

Summing up

We are saved by Grace, and Grace is also the power of the Holy Spirit working in us who can bring us to the fullness of Christ. We cannot do that on our own. What we need to do to live in Grace is to submit to the Spirit, study and obey the Word, ask for His help, and relax and let Him do the work in us and for us.

To think about

Read Matthew 11:28-29 in either the Message or Amplified version

(Message) "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of Grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

(Amplified) Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.] Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls.

Close in prayer

Optional Extra

Here are some more scriptures about Grace: Romans 5:1-2,15-17,20-21, Romans 15:15-16, Ephesians 3:8, Ephesians 4:7, 2 Corinthians 8:7-9, 2 Cor 12:9, 1 Peter 1:13, 2 Peter 3:18, Psalm 84:11.