

Transforming Grace Series - Ephesians

Week 1 Study Guide Questions for: A Story of Grace

The Christian concept of grace has been described as: God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

1. Read Acts 9:1-31. Paul's conversion is a demonstration of the power of God's grace to change a person's course 180 degrees. In what ways do you see God's grace exhibited in this story?
2. Do you identify with any of the characters in this story: Paul, His companions, Ananias, etc.? Feel free to briefly share a little about your own story.
3. In Ephesians 1:1 Paul addresses the Christians as "Saints". A Saint is one who is "set apart for God's purposes"; in other words, "one who is holy". How does this relate to the Apostle Paul? Read Acts 19:11-20 and discuss how these Ephesians became identified as Saints. What changes occurred in these people as they came to know Christ? If you've come to know Christ, how has it changed your life?

Week 2 Study Guide Questions for: Your Portfolio of Grace

1. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. Can you list the Blessings (expressions of Grace) poured out on the believer in Jesus Christ? (Hint: There are 5 main blessings)
2. Pick a blessing and tell how it might impact the way we view life and the choices we make each day?
3. In what ways has God blessed you this week?

Week 3 Study Guide Questions: Grace Unleashed Through Prayer

1. Read Eph 1:15-23. What had Paul heard about these Christians since his departure? What do people who know us say about us? In other words, "what kind of reputation do we have?"
2. "*Knowing*" is understood by the reader as an experiential knowledge; truth that has been digested and lived out. What does things does Paul pray that the Ephesians will "*know*"? Why are these important?
3. How has *knowing* some of these truths affected you, in your own experience?

Week 4 Study Guide Questions for: "But God..."

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. How does this passage describe life "before Christ"? How does serious reflection on verses 1-3 make you feel?
2. How does the phrase, "But God..." v4, change everything for the believer? How has it changed things for you?
3. Based on 2:8-10, how does the principle of grace play out in one's experience, from pre-Christian to faithful follower of Christ?

Small groups help us experience Spiritual Growth involving Grace, Truth, and Time

- Grace: God is for you
- Truth: Reality that comes from Scripture and other people
- Time: The process by which growth and transformation occur

A grace-filled, truth-telling group is a place where we can:

- Care for each other, encourage each other, and come alongside one another
- Feel safe to "come-as-you-are", be yourself, and to accept each other unconditionally
- Being "real" with each other, and take relational risks with one another
- Push each other to take growth steps, and name areas where growth needs to happen
- Provide practical help and resources others may need