



HEART

Sermon Series



Companion Discussion Guide

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Grace

Read: 2 Samuel 9

Grace. Alone, the word is both powerful and peaceful. It is a sweet name given to girls and the reason that Christ's blood dripped from the nails in the cross. It is to be sufficient for us in times of trials and is a gift that cannot be earned. It is to provide eternal hope and daily strength. Grace.

As a man after God's own heart, David understood grace. He understood that he was blessed to have lived through his "King Saul" experience and have God bring him to a place of victory. David's response in victory was God honoring praise as rest came to David and to the united kingdom of Israel. It was there, in that time of rest that David's heart after God was again clearly seen. His rest didn't produce apathy or ambition. It didn't produce vengeance or pride. His rest led him to be fruitful; to remember a covenant he made and to desire to show kindness. He gave a gift to a broken and isolated man. David took him out of hiding. He gave him a place to live and a table to eat at. But his gift was far deeper than even those meaningful things. David gave as God gives us; David gave grace.

Starter question:

What was a kind thing that you have done for someone else, recently or otherwise?

Discussion Questions:

Start off talking about anything that captured the attention or heart of those in your group. Then, as you feel led, take time to go through as many or as few of the questions as you have time for.

1. Can you describe an instance in which someone else showed you kindness? Was it difficult for you to receive or not? Explain.



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2. Look at the following passages that speak about grace. Which one or ones stand out to you and why? What do the passages tell us about grace?

2 Corinthians 1:12—*Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God's grace.*

2 Corinthians 8:9—*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

2 Corinthians 12:9—*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

Ephesians 2:4-8—*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—*

2 Thess 2:16-17—*May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, 17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.*

2 Tim 1:9—*He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time*

Hebrews 4:16—*Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*



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3. In 2 Samuel 9:3-4 David learns that Mephibosheth, son of his now deceased and best friend Jonathon, is still alive and living in Lo Debar. Nate shared with us that the name Lo Debar means “no pasture” and was an out of the way place, an inconspicuous village that would be easy to imagine as a dry and dusty village. He further stated that Lo Debar is more than a physical location, it is a spiritual location, a place of loss and isolation, a place where dreams and hope have died, a place where lots of people live, an experience that is a part of the human condition. Have you experienced your own Lo Debar? How would you describe your experience(s)? What did you learn from the experience(s)?
4. Look at 2 Samuel 9:5-7. Nate spoke of David summoning Mephibosheth to appear before him. As a descendent of King Saul, David’s adversary, Mephibosheth likely expected to be put to death because he was a potential threat to David’s throne. However, David clearly remembered the covenant he had made with Jonathon, Mephibosheth’s father, and instead of destroying him David extended grace and kindness to Mephibosheth. How have you, like Mephibosheth, experienced the lovingkindness of God? God’s lovingkindness may be challenging and initially, it may be scary. What did that kindness and grace look like in your life?
5. Look at Psalm 18:49-50. David’s gracious response to Mephibosheth was profoundly impacted by the kindness the Lord had shown to David and promised to his descendents. How should we respond to the lovingkindness that we have receive from God? Who can you bless with kindness and grace?
6. Romans 2:4 states, “Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?” While God is a holy God and a God of justice, He is a kind and gracious God. We see in that passage that God’s kindness towards us is intended to lead us towards repentance and change in our lives. When appropriate, do you consistently respond to



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God's kindness with repentance and change? Why or why not? What can tend to get in the way of a right response? What can help us to respond correctly to God's kindness?

7. How does your understanding of grace encourage you? How does it challenge you?
8. In light of the passage studied and your understanding of lovingkindness, do you see grace as powerful or peaceful, or maybe both? Explain.

Living it Out — See if you can complete the following statements.

I acknowledge that I still have Lo Debar experiences that are often due to...

This week I choose to receive God's continual grace given to me and commit to respond to God's lovingkindness by giving kindness away to...

Though I know I don't deserve God's grace, I know His kindness comes to change my life and lead me to repentance and growth. As a result I...

Closing Prayer:

Take time to pray for one another and receive God's grace and kindness. Give thanks for the continual unearned favor and mercy that God gives and commit to respond by drawing closer to Christ and being a dispenser of kindness and grace to others.