

**“Grow in Grace”**  
**2 Peter 3:18**  
**Group Discussion Questions**

**Week 4 - How do I grow in grace?**

**Scripture Readings:**

*M - Psalm 34:8, 119:105; Isaiah 51:1*

*T - Matthew 5:6; Ephesians 4:13, 6:17*

*W - 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:11, 5:12*

*Th - James 1:22-24*

*F - 1 Peter 1:22-25; 2 Peter 3:18*

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Recall the earlier days of your faith. Are you in the same place spiritually as you were 5 years ago? What has changed? How have you grown (matured)?
2. We know the saying, "You are what you eat." What has your spiritual diet been like lately? Are you tasting the pure Word of God or junk food?
3. What are some things that have robbed your spiritual appetite? Can you identify something in your life that has spoiled your taste for the things of God? (i.e., malice, envy, deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy)
4. Which analogy of the Bible stands out to you? Is it your lamp, sword, instruction manual, mirror? Read together 2 Timothy 3:16-17; talk about which part you need and crave the most right now.
5. Do you crave and desire God's truth, longing for, and wanting it? Think of something you eat or drink daily, maybe your morning coffee, and decide to incorporate time for the Word with that time of physical feeding. Encourage one another in the group to do this daily and check in on one another to bolster each other's growth.

## **Week 3 – What is so amazing about God’s grace?**

**M** - Ephesians 2 (Focal Passage vs.8-9)

**T** - 2 Corinthians 12 (Focal passage vs. 9)

**W** - James 4 (Focal Passage vs. 6)

**TH** - Hebrews 4 (Focal passage vs.16)

**F** - 2 Peter 3 (Focal Passage vs. 18)

### **Read Ephesians 2:1-9**

- What is the problem? How does God’s grace cover/fix it?
- Grace, which comes from the Greek New Testament word *charis*, is God’s unmerited favor. It is kindness from God that we don’t deserve. God’s salvation to us is a gift that we cannot earn or take credit for. This is something we know to be true but our actions can often say otherwise. In what ways do you try to earn God’s grace?
- Spend some time pondering this gift of eternal relationship with the God who made you. What amazes you most about God’s grace?

### **Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10**

- In the midst of your most painful trials, how have you seen Jesus’ grace be sufficient for you?
- “Could it be that we are so worn and desperate for ways to better ourselves because we’ve missed the power, inherent in the grace of God, that eradicates self-improvement altogether? Is it possible that we keep trying to answer the wrong question: Am I enough? – when we’re really wanting to know: Is God enough?” – Ruth Chou Simons, *When Strivings Cease*.  
The grace of Christ helps us to live in this world daily. His grace enables us to know that only because of Him our weaknesses are used by Him to accomplish His purposes in and through our lives. Do you know your own weaknesses? How may the Lord want to use your weaknesses to demonstrate His power and strength in your life? (For example, a weakness of desiring control in all situations can lead to recognizing a need to trust God more with those situations.) How have you seen His power made complete in your weakness?

### **Read James 4:6 (1-12)**

- What issues in the church was James addressing in this passage? How do we have similar issues within the church today?
- According to this passage, how do we experience greater grace in order to combat worldliness, our flesh, conflicts and the devil?
- God gives grace to the humble. How can you humble yourself before God this week?

### **Read Hebrews 4:14-16**

- Why is God’s “throne of grace” amazing? (v.16)
- How does our understanding of the person and work of Christ encourage us in our trials?
- What is keeping you from coming to God’s throne of grace in your time of need? (pride, wanting to figure it out yourself, or lack of certainty that He will want to hear from you, etc.)

### **Read 2 Peter 3:18**

- We can grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior by getting to know more of His character, to experience Him in your daily life. What will you do this week to begin growing more in understanding His grace for you?

## **Week 2 – Why is the Gospel so important?**

**M** - Romans 1 (Focal Passage vs.16)

**T** - Ephesians 1 (Focal passage vs. 13)

**W** - Philippians 1 (Focal Passage vs. 5,7,12,16,27)

**TH** - Colossians 1 (Focal passage vs.23)

**F** - 2 Peter 3 (Focal Passage vs. 18)

### **Read Romans 1:16-17**

- How does Romans 1 help us to see our need for salvation?
- Why does Paul make a point that it is by “the power of God” (v16) that we are saved?
- What does it look like to be “ashamed of the Gospel” (v16)? When was a time when you seemingly were “ashamed of the Gospel”? Why?

### **Read Ephesians 1:11-14**

- What does it mean to “believe in Him” (v.13)? What are we specifically believing about Him?
- What is the evidence of our belief in Him?
- What does it mean that we are “sealed with the promised Holy Spirit” (v.13)? How does knowing that we are “sealed” help us to live out our faith?

### **Read Philippians 1:5,7,12,16,27**

- How does Paul speak about the Gospel in these passages? How does he describe it?
- Why is protecting the Gospel so important to Paul (writer of Philippians)?
- What does it look like to defend the Gospel (v.16) today? Why should we?

### **Read Colossians 1:23**

- What is the “hope of the Gospel” (v.23)?
- How are we to live in light of this hope? Why does this hope in the Gospel produce joy in our hearts?

### **Read 2 Peter 3:18**

- It is hard to grow in grace without knowing that we need it every day. We can all mature in our understanding that we did not save ourselves, cannot save ourselves, and will not save ourselves by our good works. What are some ways in which we can position ourselves to grow in grace and knowledge?
- The beautiful part of being with Christ is that He wants us to grow as well. He will often position us in places where we need to trust Him. How have you seen growth in your life recently or in the lives of those around you? What took place for that growth to happen?

## Week 1 - What does it mean to grow?

This week's readings focused on growing spiritually. A focal passage from each chapter spoke specifically to aspects of growth that we'll discuss in group together.

**M** - Luke 2 (Focal Passage vs. 40)

**T** - 1 Corinthians 3 (Focal passage vs. 6)

**W** - 1 Peter 2 (Focal Passage vs. 2)

**TH** - Ephesians 4 (Focal passage vs. 15)

**F** - 2 Peter 3 (Focal Passage vs. 18)

- Read **Luke 2:40** - From what you know about the life of Jesus, what means and methods did He use to "*increase in wisdom*"?
- What means and methods have you found most helpful to increase in your biblical wisdom?
- Recall a time when "*the grace of God was upon*" you as a result of the wisdom He gave you? (Possibly the remembrance of a key passage of scripture as you witnessed to someone, an inspired thought that came as you prayed for someone, etc.)
- Read **1 Corinthians 3:1-9**. What can we learn from Paul's phrase, "*but God was causing the growth*"? What else do we learn from this section of scripture with regard to growth?
- Read **1 Peter 2:2**. How would you assess your longing for God's word? Do you have an insatiable appetite for His word? Or, do you rarely think about His word? Where do you fall on that spectrum?
- Read **Ephesians 4:15**. How does speaking the truth to another believer and them speaking the truth to you help you to grow to be more like Christ?
- Recall a time when another believer spoke the truth to you. It may have been painful (**Proverbs 27:6**). But, how did you grow spiritually as a result of that experience?
- Read **2 Peter 3:18**. How would you like to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ in 2023? How can we as a group help you in that regard?