

# The Appearing of Grace

## 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Titus 2:11-14

### I. Introduction: The Age of Grace

1. In our last two Christmas messages, **we concluded that (1) yes, Jesus is Messiah** and (2) He came to seek AND save that which was lost; **specifically that mankind may know healing in a restored relationship with our Lord.**
2. Biblically speaking, in its narrowest definition, Christmas is the celebration of God incarnate. **In a few minutes, we will present a different view; specifically that Christmas is a celebration of Jesus “appearing” as man for some 33 years.**
3. America puts a lot of time and energy behind Christmas...countless hours and an estimate \$1 Trillion dollars plus in 2025. **Yet, the reality is that precious little of this money and effort is actually about Christ or His birthday.**
  - A. Instead, Christmas has increasingly become a cultural holiday marked by cookies, carols, and consumerism with little or no Christ. **Yes, tens of millions will put up lights, decorations, and trees.** Gifts will be exchanged and memories made. **Airports and roads will be congested as friends and families gather.**
  - B. However, the picture of isn't all good. **Christmas is a season where great hurts are experienced and revisited.** Christmas is a season where choices are too often made without thought of worshipping Jesus. **What's more, the cultural war against marriage and family has taken a devastating toll often vivid during the Christmas season.** The cultural noise against Jesus is increasingly louder as fewer Americans indicate that faith is central in their lives.

- i. This despite the epidemic levels of anger, depression, fear, addictions, loneliness, and other brokenness permeating deeper into the fabric of our culture.
  - ii. This despite a yearning for the meaning and purpose offered only in the person of Jesus.
- 4. The war is won, but the battle of good vs evil rages. The father of lies and his worldly system are “promise-breakers” while the church faithfully points to the great Promise-keeper, Jesus.

You see, the birth of Jesus is the birth of the Promise-Keeper...the One offering meaning and purpose...the One offering to share in the victory He already won - not at His birth, but through His death. And so, this Christmas (and actually every Christmas) I pray our celebration of Christ's birth will be a celebration of His life (and death) because Jesus ushered in the “Church Age” or what might be better called the “Age of Grace”.

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Please open your Bibles to **2 Timothy 1:8-10**.

## II. 2 Timothy 1:8-10: Christ's Appearing.

<sup>8</sup> Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, <sup>10</sup> but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, *who* has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

- 2 Timothy 1:8–10

1. This passage begins with a “Therefore” so let's back-up a verse to see the reasoning. 2 Timothy 1:7 says “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

- A. So, the therefore communicates “BECAUSE, as a believer, you DON’T have the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind...because you know Jesus...because of your faith in Jesus as Messiah...AND because of these things, you need NOT be ashamed of His testimony alive in Paul’s or your life.
2. There is a lot going on in this passage...as recipients of the Good News:
- A. Paul reminds us to count the cost in knowing that Jesus is worthy of our suffering for inviting others into the victory of His appearance;
- B. The Gospel or Good News confronts the reader. Jesus came that we may be saved and called;
- C. His calling comes with His power – in fact He warns us to NOT “do” our works in our power, but “be” in His. Scripture teaches us that He loves us enough to free us from the bondage of being sinful, broken people condemned by ourselves to eternal punishment. Instead, He loves us so much that He offers us a new heart (Mt 5:8) and a transformed mind (Romans 12:1-2) that we may NOT be CONDEMNED but be born-again to eternal life (John 3:16-17)!
- D. Finally, we read that Jesus appeared, offering meaning, purpose, and a plan for each and all of His followers...along with the necessary supernatural power to fulfill them. The meaning is found in His calling of us, our purpose is found in our obedience in being about His business, and His plan is grace.
3. Before we move on, let’s take a few minutes to bring the idea of Jesus “appearing” into focus.
- A. Epiphaneia, the word we use for epiphany, is the word for “appearing”. It means to bring forth in brightness (meaning things may be seen and known in the clarity of the light). 2

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**Timothy 1:8-10** does not say bringing forth the birth of a baby...it says bring forth “our Savior Jesus Christ” for all to see...remarkably, amazingly, stunningly, supernaturally fully as man.

- i. What love is this that God Himself inserted Himself into the fabric of time as a baby? This love is a pure, holy, and sacrificial love from the One that is our rescue story. A baby destined to die at the hands of mankind’s rejection...a baby destined to rise and defeat death in offering us THE path to restoration with Himself. This is the Gospel.
- ii. Yet, the emphasis throughout the New Testament is not on His birth, but on Him...on the fulness of His appearing. Oh, I am not suggesting we limit our rejoicing of Christ’s birth, I am suggesting we should be enlarging it.

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4. Turn with me to **Titus 2:11-14**.

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.  
- Titus 2:11–14

- A. Just as we read in 2 Timothy, this passage too reflects Jesus’ appearing...not once, but twice. In verses 11-12 & 14, His appearance is the summary of His earthly ministry. In v 13, His “appearing” references a yet future event of His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. Together they offer a portrait of a sovereign, all-powerful faithful-and-true rescuer.
- B. In v14, we read that His appearance brings salvation, sanctification, and separation unto Him (holiness). In v11, we read how Jesus’ “appearing” makes this happen – by His grace

(more on this shortly). In v12, we read the “bones” of His “appearing” plan; here He teaches us to deny our flesh and the world’s temptations while soberly receiving and living out His righteousness and Godliness.

- i. Of note, living soberly means to be, in exercising self-control, sane and sensible. It carries with it the idea of NOT choosing to do God’s will is to be insane. In **Titus 2:6-8**, Paul says “to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine (meaning daily living) showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility” in purposing that your life increasingly testify of the life of Christ in you.
5. As noted earlier Jesus appeared offering mankind meaning, purpose, a plan, and the supernatural power to fulfill them. We find the meaning in His calling of us, our purpose is in our obedience in being about His business, and His plan is grace. And it’s this grace which is the focus of our Christmas message today.

If our eyes are on anything but Christ...if you have been drawn too much into the commercialization of Christmas... if you are looking to make sense of the confusion, fear, despair, aloneness and all the other hurts of this life...if the hope of Jesus is drawing you to Him or already echoes in your soul ...if you are burdened for the lost...if you have a personal relationship with Christ or are considering one with Him...if any of these things, Christmas is not just a birthday bash, it is the “Appearing of Grace”, a grace that changes EVERYTHING!

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### III. The Appearance of Grace: A Life Transforming Gift That Keeps On Giving

1. Grace is God’s unmerited favor. It’s getting what we don’t deserve. Grace is the unilateral expression of mercy, kindness, patience, and love founded in God’s character and unearned by anything we think, say, or do. God gives grace from the wellspring of His love and delight He has in His creation.

2. While we cannot do much more than scratch the surface of God's grace, to the extent we can see even the little we cover today with the spiritual eyes He intends, prepare to have your socks blessed off.

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- A. By grace God created;
- B. By grace God forgives;
- C. By grace God saves;
- D. By grace God restores;
- E. By grace He gives us faith;
- F. By grace we are justified;
- G. By grace He gives us a new heart and transforms our mind;
- H. By grace God matures;
- I. By grace Jesus performed miracle after miracle during His earthly ministry.
- J. By grace God makes Himself known (righteousness, holiness, etc);
- K. By grace God sees us through life's storms;
- L. By grace God ministers to and draws us unto Himself; and
- M. By grace God gave countless promises - themselves GRACE.

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Yes, the birth of Christ is to be celebrated in awe and wonder...but not solely for His birth's sake. **Rather, His birth is the door of heaven thrown wide open for His master plan of grace rescuing mankind.**

If you are one that has come to think of God as first being "judge and jury" - **the "rule-maker and rule-enforcer" if you will** – I want to encourage AND exhort you to receive His message of grace before wedding yourself to the consequence of rejecting His grace. **You know in John 3:16-17, we are told that, in love, God gave His Son that** (1) mankind may have everlasting life and (2) NOT to condemn us. So, God's master plan is grace...

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- N. In grace God came as a baby;
- O. **In grace He gave and gave and gave of Himself...all the way to death at Calvary...all while we were still sinners (still at war with Him);**

- P. In grace He rose again, defeating death;
- Q. In grace He gave His disciples 40 more days of training;
- R. In grace He sent His Spirit to indwell His children;
- S. In grace He is seated at the right hand of the Father, interceding on our behalf;
- T. In grace, He gives us structure, meaning, and purpose...**He gives us to know what victory is and the manner of obtaining that victory.** That we would NOT wander and wonder in the wilderness of carnality and self-serving aggrandizement, but that we would know the way home and have the method to get there;
- U. In grace He gives us hope; and
- V. In grace, through love, He draws us to Himself.

3. This does NOT mean that God does not judge; indeed His righteousness and justice demand judgment. **Yet, His judgment is not to be feared in the carnal sense IF we embrace the Appearance of Grace** for in His grace, He pays the price for our sins in redeeming us from death into new, eternal life in Him.

4. Indeed, His grace opens the door to our abiding in Him and He in us. **This means we are no longer in bondage to the things of Satan, this world, and our flesh.** Instead, in grace, with all of His goodness, righteousness, and amazing character, Jesus Himself takes up residence in our lives. **This is the grace of Christ's birth...**that you will be born-again with Him in you...made overcomers of all of life's overwhelming difficulties.

A. This is what grace does. **It unmasks the lie of the old me, the one that we loved for it satiated our flesh and our pride, in favor of a knowing that it is only in Christ that one is made complete.** Grace offers us the vision to know our ultimate meaning and purpose comes in pleasing God. **Grace gives us to know that He is exactly what you AND every person so desperately needs.** Grace gives us the strength, courage, and wisdom to strap on the battle armor AGAINST THE LIES AND PRESSURES OF THIS LIFE **in knowing that Jesus' is the only One that is worthy of all praise, honor, and glory...**the only One



worthy of our very lives....the very One by which we have victory.

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#### IV. Closing: Responding to the Appearing of Grace

1. The Appearing of Grace comes with an inescapable responsibility for everyone of us to respond. Scripture teaches us that there are two possible responses, both requiring sacrifice.
  - A. Response 1: No to Jesus. For those making this choice, you have sacrificed His grace, including His promises and gift of eternal life. Of your free will, you have instead chosen to bear the consequence of His righteous wrath for all eternity. You have chosen to live this life without the meaning, purpose, and plan of Jesus leading and protecting you. It's a hard choice, a choice in which we share God's great sorrow for it leads to your eternal separation from God.
  - B. Response 2: Yes to Jesus. For those making today or having made this choice in the past, you have sacrificed the old-destined-to-death you in favor of the new born-again-into-the-abundant-eternal-life you offered exclusively in Christ. You have chosen a difficult path, but the path that God has for you in bringing Him honor and glory...the path full of the blessings of freedom, joy, peace, and rest...the path of deepening relationship with Jesus and the body of Christ. In short, the path of victory!
2. With the Appearance of His grace in mind...two closing points to wrap us up.
  - A. First, I want to invite the "no's" to instead say "yes" and receive the grace of God. [Prayer]
  - B. Second, I want to invite those that have said yes to take a moment to examine yourself. In Romans 12, the child of God is called to be a living sacrifice. Are you constantly and consistently praying, worshipping, gathering, serving, and



giving to worship and grow in the Lord? **Is He always on our mind, in our words, and reflected in our deeds?** Or does your sacrifice depend on your schedule, the weather, your comforts, or your self-focus in one way or another? **What is the pattern of your life...drawing closer Jesus or NOT so much?** I ask because Scripture teaches that we are as close to God as we want to be (James 4:8) AND because the victory of life is found in God Himself in that life.

[Prayer]

## **The Appearing of Grace Christmas 2025 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Titus 2:11-14**

### **I. Introduction: The Age of Grace**

- The war is won, but the battle of good vs evil rages.
- Jesus is the Promise-Keeper, while the father of lies is the promise-breaker.

### **II. 2 Timothy 1:8-10: Christ's Appearing**

- Meaning is found in His calling of us, our purpose is found in our obedience in being about His business, and His plan is grace.
- Grace changes everything

Additional Scripture References: Ti 2:11-14, 6-8

### **III. The Appearance of Grace: A Life Transforming Gift that Keeps on Giving**

- Jesus birth is the door of heaven thrown wide open for His master plan of grace rescuing mankind.

### **IV. Closing: Responding to the Appearing of Grace**

- The "Appearing of Grace" comes with an inescapable responsibility for every one of us to respond.

## **5-Day Devotional**

### **The Appearing of Grace (Christmas 2025)**

#### **2 Timothy 1:8-10; Titus 2:11-14**

#### **Day 1: Grace Has Appeared**

**Reading: Ti 2:11-14**

**Devotional**: Grace is not merely a theological concept—it is a Person who appeared in human flesh. When Jesus was born, heaven's door swung wide open, ushering in the age of grace. This unmerited favor changes everything about how we approach God. We don't earn His love through perfect behavior; we receive it as a gift flowing from His character. Christmas celebrates more than a baby's birth—it celebrates God's rescue mission for humanity.

Today, pause and consider: How has God's grace already transformed your life? Where do you still struggle to accept what you cannot earn? His grace is sufficient for every area of your life, every failure, every fear. Let the reality of His appearing fill you with wonder anew.

#### **Day 2: Called with Purpose**

**Reading: 2 Ti 1:8-10**

**Devotional**: God didn't save you and leave you purposeless. His grace comes with calling, power, and a holy purpose. You were not given a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind. This means your life has divine meaning beyond cultural definitions of success. Jesus appeared not just to forgive your sins but to invite you into His mission. He offers supernatural power to fulfill the unique calling He has placed on your life. Are you living in the power of His calling, or are you operating in your own strength?

Today, ask God to reveal the purpose He has designed specifically for you. Then take one step of obedience, trusting that His grace provides everything you need to walk in your calling without shame or fear.

#### **Day 3: Denying Self, Embracing Christ**

**Reading: Ti 2:12; Ro 12:1-2**

**Devotional**: Grace teaches us to say "no" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and "yes" to self-controlled, upright, and godly lives. This isn't legalism—it's freedom. When Christ appears in your life, He offers you liberation from the bondage of sin, flesh, and Satan's lies. Living soberly means exercising Spirit-empowered self-control, choosing sanity over the insanity of ignoring God's will. Transformation requires sacrifice—the old you must die so the new you can live. This daily death to self isn't punishment; it's the pathway to abundant life.

What areas of your life are you still clutching with white knuckles? What worldly pattern needs to be surrendered? God's grace doesn't just forgive; it transforms your mind and gives you a new heart. Yield to His sanctifying work today.

#### **Day 4: Hope of His Return**

**Reading: Ti 2:13; 1 Thes 4:13-18**

**Devotional:** The same grace that appeared in Bethlehem will appear again in glory. We live between two advents—His first coming in humility and His second coming in majesty. This "blessed hope" isn't escapism; it's the anchor that steadies us through life's storms. When circumstances overwhelm, when culture grows darker, when personal trials persist, we fix our eyes on His promised return. Jesus is coming back for His bride, the Church. This hope transforms how we live today—with urgency, purpose, and eternal perspective.

Are you living as though His return could be today? Does this hope shape your priorities, relationships, and daily choices? Let the anticipation of seeing Him face-to-face motivate holy living and bold witness. He who promised is faithful and true.

#### **Day 5: Responding to Grace**

**Reading: Jn 3:16-17; Eph 2:8-10**

**Devotional:** Grace demands a response. You cannot remain neutral toward God's appearing. Either you sacrifice His grace and choose eternal separation, or you sacrifice the old self and receive new, abundant life in Christ. God didn't send Jesus to condemn but to save. His posture toward you is love, not judgment—if you embrace His grace. Have you truly said "yes" to Jesus, or are you merely culturally Christian? For believers, the question remains: Are you drawing closer to Him or drifting?

Examine the pattern of your life. Grace isn't just for salvation; it's for daily sanctification. You are as close to God as you want to be. His grace is sufficient, His power made perfect in weakness. Today, recommit yourself fully to the One who appeared for you. Live worthy of the grace you've received, not to earn it, but because it has already transformed you.

## **Small Group Study Guide**

### **The Appearing of Grace (Christmas 2025)**

### **2 Timothy 1:8-10; Titus 2:11-14**

**Opening Prayer:** Father, thank You for the appearing of Your grace in Jesus Christ. Help me to live each day in the power of Your calling, denying myself and embracing Your purposes. May my life reflect the transformation Your grace brings. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Opening Question:** What is one Christmas tradition your family observes, and what does it mean to you? How does it connect (or not connect) to celebrating Jesus?

**Sermon Recap:** This sermon challenges us to see Christmas not merely as Christ's birthday, but as the "Appearing of Grace"—the moment God inserted Himself into human history to rescue us. While culture celebrates with cookies, carols, and consumerism, we're called to celebrate the grace that changes everything: God's unmerited favor that saves, restores, and empowers us for victory.

**Discussion Questions:** (Did the Holy Spirit prompt any questions with you? Start with those.)

#### **Part 1: Cultural Christmas vs. Christ-Centered Christmas**

1. The pastor mentioned that Christmas has become marked by "cookies, carols, and consumerism with little or no Christ." How have you seen this play out in your own life or community?
2. What are some practical ways we can shift our Christmas celebrations to be more Christ-centered without becoming legalistic or joyless?
3. The sermon notes that Christmas is a season where "great hurts are experienced, remembered, and revisited." Why do you think the holidays amplify pain for many people? How can the church respond with grace?

#### **Part 2: Understanding "Appearing"**

1. The sermon emphasizes that Christmas celebrates Jesus' entire earthly ministry—His "appearing"—not just His birth. How does this broader perspective change how you think about Christmas?
2. Read 2 Timothy 1:8-10 together. What does it mean that Jesus "abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel"? How should this truth impact our daily lives?

3. The word "epiphaneia" means "to bring forth in brightness" so things can be seen clearly. What has Jesus made clear in your life that was once hidden in darkness?

### **Part 3: The Master Plan of Grace**

1. The sermon lists numerous ways grace operates in our lives (God creates by grace, forgives by grace, saves by grace, etc.). Which aspect of God's grace resonates most deeply with you right now? Why?
2. Read Titus 2:11-14 together. According to verse 12, grace "teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts." How does grace actually teach us? Can you share an example from your life?
3. The pastor said, "Grace gives us the strength, courage, and wisdom to strap on the battle armor against the lies and pressures of this life." What specific lies or pressures are you currently battling? How can grace equip you?

### **Part 4: Personal Response**

1. The sermon ended with two responses: "No to Jesus" or "Yes to Jesus." For those who have said yes, the question was asked: "What is the pattern of your life—drawing closer to Jesus or NOT so much?" How would you honestly answer that question?
2. The pastor stated, "Scripture teaches that we are as close to God as we want to be." Do you agree or disagree? What barriers (real or perceived) keep you from drawing closer to God?
3. Living "soberly" means exercising self-control and being sane and sensible in choosing God's will. In what area of your life do you need to live more "soberly" in 2025?

### **Key Takeaways**

1. Christmas is the celebration of the "Appearing of Grace"—God's master plan to rescue humanity
2. Grace is God's unmerited favor; we get what we don't deserve based on His character, not our performance
3. Jesus didn't just come to be born; He came to seek and save, to die and rise, ushering in the "Age of Grace"

4. Grace is not passive—it actively teaches, transforms, and empowers us for holy living
5. We are as close to God as we want to be; our response to grace determines our spiritual trajectory

**Practical Applications:** Query the group for applications first...you may explore one or more of those. We encourage you to commit to 1 or 2 of these this week.

1. Gratitude Journal: Each day until Christmas, write down one specific way you've experienced God's grace in your life.
2. Grace Conversation: Have an intentional conversation with someone about what Jesus' birth means beyond the cultural celebration—share the "Appearing of Grace."
3. Self-Examination: Set aside 30 minutes for honest reflection. Ask yourself: "Am I drawing closer to Jesus or coasting?" Write down specific patterns that reveal your answer.
4. Identify Your Battle: Name one specific lie from Satan, the world, or your flesh that you're believing. Find a Scripture that counters that lie and memorize it.
5. Sober Living: Choose one area where you need greater self-control (social media, spending, eating, entertainment, etc.) and create a specific plan to exercise Spirit-empowered discipline. Remember that self-control is not an ends to itself, but a "time-out" teaching us to give the thing requiring self-control to Jesus.
6. Grace Recipient to Grace Giver: Identify someone who needs to experience God's grace through you—offer forgiveness, kindness, or practical help without expecting anything in return.

**Closing Prayer Prompts. Pray together, focusing on:**

1. **Thanksgiving** for the Appearing of Grace—that God loved us enough to come as a baby and die as our Savior
2. **Confession** of areas where we've reduced Christmas to cultural celebration rather than Christ worship
3. **Petition** for grace to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age



4. **Intercession** for those who have not yet said "yes" to Jesus—that they would receive His grace
5. **Commitment** to draw closer to God in the coming year

**Before Next Week:**

1. Read through Titus 2:11-14 daily, meditating on a different phrase each day
2. Share one insight from this discussion with someone outside your small group
3. Pray for each group member by name, asking God to deepen their experience of His grace

**Discussion Questions**  
**The Appearing of Grace (Christmas 2025)**  
**2 Timothy 1:8-10; Titus 2:11-14**

1. How does understanding Christmas as the 'Appearing of Grace' rather than just a birthday celebration change your perspective on the incarnation and its significance for your daily life?
2. In what ways have you allowed cultural Christmas traditions to overshadow the transformative message of Christ's appearing, and how might you reorient your celebration this year?
3. Paul writes that God has given us 'a spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind' rather than fear. Where in your life are you still operating from fear instead of embracing this gift?
4. The sermon emphasizes that grace is unmerited favor we cannot earn. How does this truth challenge the ways you might be trying to earn God's approval through your own works or behavior?
5. What does it mean practically to 'deny our flesh and the world's temptations while soberly receiving and living out His righteousness and Godliness' in your specific circumstances?
6. How does recognizing that Jesus appeared not just to be born but to live, die, and resurrect affect your understanding of the full scope of His redemptive work?
7. The message states that we are 'as close to God as we want to be.' What honest assessment can you make about whether the pattern of your life is drawing you closer to Jesus or keeping you at a distance?
8. In what areas of your life are you still living in bondage to Satan, the world, or your flesh rather than walking in the freedom that grace provides?
9. How does understanding that God's primary posture toward humanity is grace rather than judgment as 'judge and jury' reshape your view of His character and your relationship with Him?
10. What would it look like for you to become a living testimony of the 'Appearing of Grace' to those around you who are experiencing the brokenness, loneliness, and despair described in this message?

## **Dinner Conversation Starters**

### **The Appearing of Grace (Christmas 2025)**

### **2 Timothy 1:8-10; Titus 2:11-14**

These conversation starters are designed to encourage discussion about the sermon's themes and how they can be applied to everyday life, fostering a deeper connection with each other and with faith.

1. **Understanding Grace**: The sermon outlined that grace is God's unmerited favor. How do you see examples of this grace in your life, and how can we show grace to others in our daily routines?
2. **Cultural vs. Spiritual Christmas**: We learned that the cultural celebration of Christmas often lacks the focus on Christ. How can our family ensure that we keep Christ at the center of our Christmas traditions?
3. **Responding to Grace**: The message mentioned two possible responses to God's grace: acceptance or rejection. What are some practical ways we can live out our 'yes' to Jesus in our community or family life?
4. **Purpose and Meaning**: The sermon emphasized that Jesus offers meaning and purpose to our lives. What do you think is your current purpose, and how can we support each other in fulfilling the purposes God has for us?
5. **Victory in Challenges**: The preacher talked about overcoming life's difficulties through the grace of Jesus. Can you share a recent challenge where you experienced this victory, and how did it change your perspective?"

# **Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens**

## **The Appearing of Grace (Christmas 2025)**

### **2 Timothy 1:8-10; Titus 2:11-14**

#### **AGES 5-7**

##### **1. Simplifying the Message Application Points**

- a. Be a Light: Encourage children to be kind and share with their friends, reflecting the love of Jesus.
- b. Grace in Action: Teach them to say sorry and forgive, helping them understand grace as undeserved kindness.
- c. Understanding Jesus: Help children learn simple stories about Jesus' birth and life.

##### **2. Discussion Questions:**

- a. Kindness Sharing: "When you're playing with friends, how can you show kindness like Jesus did? Can you think of a time you helped a friend or shared a toy?"
- b. Saying Sorry: "Why is it important to say sorry when we hurt someone's feelings? How does it feel when someone forgives you?"
- c. Jesus' Story: "What is your favorite story about Jesus, and why do you like it? How does it help you understand who He is?"

#### **AGES 8-12:**

##### **1. Building Understanding Application Points**

- a. Being Grace-Filled Online: Encourage discernment and kindness in digital interactions, reflecting on how Jesus would want them to act.
- b. Friendships and Forgiveness: Practice grace by forgiving friends and seeking reconciliation when conflicts arise.
- c. Purposeful Living: Start conversations about how they can use their talents to help others.

## **2. Discussion Questions:**

- a. Digital Kindness: "How can we practice grace and kindness in our texts and social media? Can you think of a positive message you could share this week?"
- b. Handling Disagreements: "When you have a disagreement with a friend, how can you show forgiveness and move forward in your friendship?"
- c. Using Talents: "What do you enjoy doing, and how might you use this talent to brighten someone else's day?"

### **AGES 11-15:**

#### **1. Deepening the Connection Application Points:**

- a. Navigating Peer Pressure: Discuss how Jesus' example can help them make wise choices amidst peer pressure.
- b. Social Media Integrity: Talk about authentic representation of self online and aligning their digital presence with Jesus' teachings.
- c. Exploring Purpose: Engage them in discussions about what they believe their skills and passions say about their purpose.

#### **2. Discussion Questions:**

- a. Peer Influence: "How do you make decisions when friends pressure you? How can grace guide you in making the right choices according to your values?"
- b. Online Authenticity: "Do you think it's important to be yourself on social media? How can you ensure that what you share reflects your true self and your beliefs?"
- c. Finding Meaning: "What are some things you're passionate about, and how do you think these interests can help you discover your purpose or contribute positively to the world?"

# **Family Conversation Guide for Gen Z**

## **The Appearing of Grace (Christmas 2025)**

### **2 Timothy 1:8-10; Titus 2:11-14**

#### **1. Group Settings: Standing Firm in Faith**

Biblical Principle: Hebrews 10:24-25 encourages us to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another.”

Scenario: When participating in group discussions or school clubs, be a source of encouragement and positivity, promoting unity and understanding.

Discussion Questions: How can you encourage someone in your group who might feel left out or discouraged? What can you do to be a source of love and good deeds in your group activities?"

#### **2. Relationships: Practicing Forgiveness and Grace**

Biblical Principle: Ephesians 4:32 calls us to “be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Scenario: When conflicts arise between friends or peers, practice forgiveness and seek to restore relationships rather than holding grudges.

Discussion Question: "Think of a recent disagreement with a friend. How can you apply kindness and forgiveness to help mend that relationship?"

#### **3. Digital Spaces: Sharing Light in Online Interactions**

Biblical Principle: Matthew 5:16 encourages us to “let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Scenario: In your social media interactions, be intentional about spreading positivity and hope rather than engaging in negativity or criticism.

Discussion Question: "How can you use your social media account to positively influence others and reflect your faith in Christ? What kind of content do you think shares God’s love in a meaningful way?"

#### **4. Individual Identity: Embracing Purpose in Christ**

Biblical Principle: Jeremiah 29:11 assures us that God has “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Scenario: In moments of self-doubt or uncertainty about the future, trust in God’s plan and seek guidance through prayer and scripture.

Discussion Question: "When you're unsure about your path or purpose, how can turning to God’s promises in the Bible help you gain clarity and peace?"

These application points are designed to help Gen Z integrate biblical principles into their everyday lives, empowering them to face challenges in group settings, relationships, and digital spaces with grace and faith.