



# COMMUNITY Groups

## January 21<sup>st</sup> 2018: GRACE COMES FIRST

### Opening

- What was your gut reaction when you heard Sunday's topic announced?
- "For over 20 years now, the guilt and regret of abortion is the most common human experience of our generation." \*\* Give a specific example of a time when you needed grace but were afraid no one would give it to you?
- When you feel guilty or ashamed about something, what tends to be your first response? How does knowing the love and forgiveness of God lead you to respond differently?

### Discussion

- [Read Matthew 7:24-27](#). God doesn't want us to only pray for the Kingdom to come, he wants us to be a part of bringing the Kingdom. How can you manifest this idea in your own life?
- [Read Ephesians 4:32](#). God forgave you first. What kind of freedom does that bring from all of our guilt or shame?
- [Read Ephesians 5:1-2](#). What is our status according to this verse?
- What is the difference between "religion" and "following Jesus?"
- What happens when we keep the fact that we are saved by God's grace—not our works— at the center of our thoughts?
- [Read Ephesians 5:8-12](#). Why is it important that we talk about our shame with God and those close to us?

### Final Application

- "Openness with sin and confidence in the forgiving power of Christ bring eternal healing from the deepest stains of guilt. This message of hope is urgently needed for millions who live in the shadows of shame and regret in our society." \*\* How can you practically bring grace to women who have had abortions and show them the love they need to find healing?
- [Read Isaiah 61:1-3](#). Meditate on this verse this week and the freedom that God wants to bring for the broken-hearted, for those in captivity, for those who are oppressed and for those who mourn. For those of you who have lost your ability to trust because of abusers or accusers, His love is perfect. His love is not waiting for your next mistake but waiting with open arms as a shelter and source of strength. A day is coming when He will make all things right.

\*\* The quotes above are from this [article](#). We would encourage everyone to read this great article before or after your group meeting.