



amazing
GRACE

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series introduction

In this series, we'll explore one of the most important themes in the Bible—grace. Grace is the unearned favor Jesus offers to us and is a cornerstone of the Christian faith. Because of what Jesus did on the cross and through the empty tomb, grace is available to everyone, and it has the power to change everything.

We'll look at how grace changes the world, our relationships, and us from the inside out. But even though it sounds good, it can also feel unsettling and even uncomfortable. We all want grace when we need forgiveness, yet it can be hard to extend that same grace to others. Grace is more than an idea; it's the power of God at work in our lives.

This guide includes a message summary, scripture, space for notes, and discussion questions. The series daily devotions are also available on the Sunnybrook website and app. So, grab your small group, family, friends, and your One, and join us as we discover how amazing grace really is.

grace changes everything

Week 1

This week B.J. kicked off our new series by exploring the foundational and biblical idea of the grace of God and how it impacts us. We considered the writing of John stating Jesus is full of grace and truth—both/and, not either/or. We also looked at a picture of this grace as exemplified in a story that Jesus told, often referred to as the story of the Lost Son. Through this we get a glimpse of God's compassion and extravagant grace. A question for us is: How do we respond to the truth of our condition and the incredible response of God?



The Parable of the Lost Son

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him: he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

"My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"



message notes

discussion guide

What is something small that happened to you this week that made you smile?

When you hear the word grace, what comes to mind?

B.J. talked about the truth of our condition and brokenness. If you are honest with yourself, what is the truth about brokenness in your life? How are you in need of grace?

Grace can be described as the unearned favor of God. Why do you think it can be difficult for people to fully accept God's grace? Is it difficult for you?

Grace doesn't just change us individually; it can transform our relationships as well. How might showing more grace impact your relationships with family, friends, or coworkers?

Is there an area of your life where you need God's grace right now? If you are comfortable, share with the group and take some time to pray for each other.

the scandal of grace

Week 2

This week Pastor Jeff continued this series by exploring why grace can sometimes feel so foreign, or even uncomfortable to us. If grace truly is the solution to so many of life's struggles, why does it sometimes feel so difficult to accept? It is meant to set us free, but we can't give or receive it until we understand it. And we can't understand it without the realization of truth. When grace and truth come together, they have the power to transform our lives.



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

john 1:14-17



message notes

discussion guide

In your opinion, which is better—giving gifts or receiving them? What's the most lavish gift you have ever been given?

Sometimes grace can feel like a gift that's too good to be true or that we don't deserve. Share an experience you've had being a recipient of God's grace.

How would you explain the difference between grace and simply overlooking wrongdoing?

Jesus was full of grace and truth. But for most of us, one of them comes more naturally. Is it easier for you to show grace or share truth? Why do you think that is?

Read John 8:1-11 together. How does Jesus' response to the woman exemplify both grace and truth?

Is there someone in your life you need to extend grace to? Or speak truth to? What could that look like this week? If you are comfortable, share with the group and take some time to pray for each other.

grace and forgiveness

Week 3

This week Erich continued our series on grace by looking at what it means to extend that grace to others through forgiveness. While we all want grace for ourselves, it can be much harder to offer it to someone who has hurt us.

We were reminded that forgiveness isn't just a suggestion, it's a step toward freedom. To forgive is to agree with God and release what we've been holding onto. Though forgiveness can be difficult, it has the power to transform our hearts, our relationships, and the way we move forward.





*And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven
our debtors.*

matthew 6:12



message notes

discussion guide

What's something you have held a grudge about that now seems kind of funny?

Is it harder for you to forgive others or forgive yourself? Why do you think that is?

Who is someone in your life that models forgiveness well? What do you notice about them?

Forgiveness is not a feeling, it's a decision. You can choose to forgive, even when you don't feel like it. How can holding onto unforgiveness affect you?

Read Galatians 2:20-21 together. What does it teach us about the role of grace in our lives?

Is there an area in your life where you need forgiveness or need to forgive someone else? What is a step you could take toward that this week? If you are comfortable, share with the group and take some time to pray for each other.

unsettling grace

Week 4

This week we continued our series by looking at the unsettling side of grace. The Kingdom of God is marked by a kind of generosity that doesn't always feel fair, grace is given freely, even to those who don't deserve it. We were reminded that no matter how far we've fallen, grace makes us right with God. Ultimately, we're left with the question: how will we respond to the unsettling grace that Jesus offers?



... Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 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. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 corinthians 12:7-10

message notes

discussion guide

Amazing Grace is considered one of the most popular and recognized hymns. What is your favorite hymn? Why?

We often think in terms of what people deserve. How does God's grace challenge our natural sense of fairness?

This week we were reminded that grace makes us right with God, no matter our past. Why can it be difficult to truly believe that?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18 together. Reflecting on the past week, month, or year, what is one thing you are particularly grateful for?

Over the past few weeks, you have shared areas in your life where you need to extend or receive grace and forgiveness. Share with the group how that is going and ways they can continue to pray for you.



Week 5

This week we wrapped up the series by looking at the power of grace in our family stories. Scripture shows us that the generations before us can shape our lives in lasting ways, for better or worse. As we walked through Jesus' family tree, we were reminded that no story is beyond the reach of God's grace. Even broken patterns and past sin don't have the final word. Through grace, God invites us to begin something new and because of Jesus, cycles can be broken and a different future is possible.

the family tree

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife ...

matthew 1:1-6



message notes

discussion guide

Have you ever traced your family tree back multiple generations? What did you discover? Was there anything surprising?

Who in your family has had the biggest influence on you? How so?

Your family tree affects you, but it doesn't have to define you. What patterns or habits in your family have you been intentional about not repeating?

Read Ephesians 2:8-9 together. What does it look like for you to rely on God's grace instead of your own efforts?

Throughout this series, we have discussed the unearned, and unsettling system of grace through Jesus. When you reflect on the last five weeks, what is the one thing you most want to remember and apply in your life?

