

# Grace is >

## Life Group Leaders Guide

### Objective

This guide contains the information and questions you will need to lead a life group study during our current sermon series. Our aim is to spark Spirit-led, Bible-centered conversations that anyone can participate in regardless of how biblically literate they may or may not be. **The win** that we want you to experience is when your group members **connect** more closely with each other and with God so that they are encouraged to move forward in living out their faith.

### Directions

The *Purpose* and *Move* sections are for the leader to read to the group to provide clarity. **Do not feel pressured to cover all the questions.** Decide which ones may work best for your group. You will see brief notes interspersed between groups of questions to help give the group context for their answers. The *Notes and Commentary* section (when included) is optional reading for the leader to get background information and better understanding of the passages before leading the discussion.

### Series Overview

Our default in life is to define ourselves by our mistakes, hurts, weaknesses and circumstances. As followers of Jesus, these things are a part of our story, but they don't define us. The grace of God does.

### Grace is > Series Schedule

Week	Sermon Date	Topic of sermon and life group
1	8/12/18	Grace is > Mistakes
2	8/19/18	Grace is > Hurts
3	8/26/18	Grace is > Weaknesses
4	9/2/18	Grace is > Circumstances (no LG study--socials)

## The Point Church Life Group Curriculum

# *Grace is > Mistakes*

### Purpose of Study

Today's study focuses on how that when we make a mistake, when we sin, God offers forgiveness. God's grace is sufficient for us even at our worst moments in life.

### Flow of Study

**Icebreaker:** Share a story about a time that you got in trouble with your parents as a kid.

**Move #1:** Let's begin by unpacking any thoughts that you took away from this weekend's sermon.

1. Did anything stand out to you from the message this weekend? Any insights or questions?
2. Did you feel convicted to act on something from the message?

**Move #2:** Next we'll dive deeper into one of the passages from the sermon. The Apostle Paul remarks about God's abundant provision of grace despite human sinfulness.

#### Read Romans 5:15-17 (NIV)

**Leader Note:** As we start reading in verse 15, Paul is contrasting how sin and death came into the world through the first man, Adam, with the gift of salvation and new life that came through Jesus.

15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! 16 Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. 17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

3. What are some things that stand out to you from this passage?
4. What are some of the specific things Paul says about God's grace in this passage?
5. This passage references the mistake Adam made in the Garden of Eden that led to the downfall of all humanity. Imagine how Adam might have felt about what he did afterwards. Have you ever felt like you made a mistake that could never be fixed?

**Leader Note:** Don't assume everyone in your group knows the story of Adam and Eve, especially if you have non-believers in your group. You may have to fill in some details.

6. Even with such a terrible mistake, God provides grace through the gift that came in Jesus. How does seeing salvation as a gift help you to better understand the gospel?

**Move #3:** When we make a mistake that amounts to sin, we need to seek forgiveness. Next let's look at a couple of Scriptures that emphasize the practical reality of God's grace and forgiveness.

**Read Psalm 103:8-12 (NIV)**

8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
9 He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbor his anger forever;  
10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.  
11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who fear him;  
12 as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

7. What are some things that stand out to you from this passage?
8. What are some things that this passage tells us about God's character?
9. Let's practice being open with each other. Share a story of a time when you made a mistake that led you to seek forgiveness from God, another person, or both.
10. How does this psalm bring you comfort and confidence in God's grace and forgiveness?

**Read 1 John 1:9 (NIV)**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

11. The hard part about making a mistake is admitting it. Why is confession important, and how can we do a better job of confessing our sins to one another and to God?

**Next Steps:**

- Encourage your Life Group members to get plugged into Core Groups, where we can practice admitting our mistakes and overcoming them.
- Take some time this week to meditate on Psalm 103. Journal a prayer back to God in response.

**Prayer:** End your study with a time of praying with and for each other. Take requests, but be sure to pray also about what you've discussed today.

## Notes and Commentary

The following are pieces of commentary, facts, and links based on the passages of this study in order. Use them optionally to help supplement your personal preparation.

### **On Romans 5:15-17**

The main point is that what God has done in the one man Jesus the Messiah is far, far more than simply putting the human race back where it was before the arrival of sin. The statue has been remade, and it is far more splendid than before. It isn't a case of 'what they knocked down, God will put back up'. Nor is it a case of 'what they did wickedly, God will do graciously'. God has done far, far more. That is the point underlying verses 15, 16 and 17.

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The 'trespass' and the 'gift' are not equal and opposite. Death is purely negative. God's gift of life cannot simply be compared with it, as though death and new life were simply equal and opposite. The 'negative verdict', the 'condemnation', which followed the original trespass, was the direct result of what had been done; but God took the initiative in a situation where there was nothing but sin to be seen, coming to the place where humankind was in ruins in order to make of his human creatures something far better than they had been in the first place.

Verse 17 takes this contrast in scale to an even greater length. The result of sin was the 'reign of death': death, the ultimate in corruption and dissolution, rules at present over the whole world and everything in it. But, whereas we might have expected the other half of the contrasting pair to be 'the reign of life', Paul goes one further: what we now await is the reign—of those who receive God's gift of covenant membership, of the status of 'being in the right'. Paul does not often speak of the coming 'reign' of those who belong to Jesus (a theme we come across in other early Christian texts such as Revelation 20:4, 6; 22:5). But here, as for instance in 1 Corinthians 6:2, it is quite clear. The 'kingdom of God', that is, God's sovereign and saving rule over the world, is presently exercised through the risen Lord Jesus. But it will be exercised in the future, so it seems, through the fully redeemed human beings, those marked out in the present by God's gift of the status of 'being in the right', of covenant membership.

Paul is now ready to come back to verse 12, where he began, and lay out his straight comparison once more: as through one man, so through one man. But before we move to the next section we should pause and reflect on the astonishing generosity of God's grace. Look back at verses 15, 16 and 17 and see how often the word 'gift' occurs. Have you really grasped the lavish scale of God's generosity?

(N.T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone*, Romans Part 1)