

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 > Hurts

Purpose of Study

Today we are going to discuss how God's grace, once we truly experience it, will flow out of us to others who have wronged or hurt us.

Flow of Study

Icebreaker: How prone are you to hold a grudge? Or what's the pettiest thing someone ever held against you?

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 dig into a couple of biblical texts that explain the importance of not only receiving God's grace, but also giving grace to others. This is often hard but also both personally freeing and glorifying to God.

Read Hebrews 12:15 (NIV)

See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

3. In what ways is grace the solution to keeping our hearts free of bitterness?
4. When bitterness takes root in our hearts, what kinds of "trouble" does it cause? Can you share an example?

Read Colossians 3:8-15 (NIV)

8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

5. Why are things like unresolved anger, rage, malice (wishing someone harm) and slander uncharacteristic of a person who is discovering their true self in Christ?

6. The work of forgiving has been called “messy grace.” What makes forgiving others so messy?
7. At the end of verse 13, Paul makes a direct connection between our receiving grace from God and our giving grace to others. Do you agree that if we fail to *give* grace, we’ve *missed* grace? Why or why not?

Leader’s Note: Having a “grievance” against someone (v. 13) refers to a situation in which we feel genuinely wronged. We have good reason to be hurt and angry.

8. How can we extend forgiveness in a situation like that?
9. What are some benefits and blessings we experience when we choose to extend grace (v. 10, 14-15)?
10. What practical tools or steps have most helped you along in the process of forgiving someone who hurt you?

Group Exercise: Close your eyes and be still. Take a deep breath. Imagine yourself at the end of all things...a time when everything has reached its ultimate conclusion. The world as you’ve known it is gone. All that’s left is the people you shared it with. Your money, your house, your career, your things...you realize how meaningless they are now. You find yourself standing before the judgment seat of Christ. The risen Jesus is seated there. You notice the scars on his hands and feet. More than ever, you feel the weight of all that he suffered for you. He looks at you with his loving but soul-piercing eyes and asks you a question:

“I gave everything I had and suffered more than you will ever know to bring you grace and mercy. Even though your sins and wrongs, if they could be put in a pile, would be higher than the tallest mountain, I came for you in love and have forgiven you. How willing have you been to forgive those who have wronged you?”

Remain still, quiet, eyes closed, and consider for the next 30 seconds... As you feel the overwhelming relief of his grace towards you, is there someone you personally need to forgive? Who is that person?

- Are you willing to share?
- Note: If someone shares something, affirm their openness, gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders and pray for them.

Prayer: End your study with a time of praying with and for each other. After requests have been shared, consider asking everyone to pray aloud for the person to their right.