

Hope...Believing God is who He says He Is

Community Group Outline Week 8

Welcome:

Being graceful is much different than giving grace to others. Just for fun, tell of a time when you were less than graceful, clumsy even.

Worship:

As an act of worship, read **Psalm 145**. Share with your group one verse that resonates with you. Before moving into the "word" section of the outline, pray as the Holy Spirit leads.

Word:

- 1) Have you ever felt like you needed to *do* something to *earn* God's grace and forgiveness?
 - a) Share about a time you felt that way.
 - b) Read **Ephesians 2:8-9** and **Ephesians 1:7**. How do these verses give you hope?
- 2) Is it easy or difficult for you to give grace to others?
 - a) If giving grace comes easy to you, share your wisdom on how to be a grace-giver.
 - b) If giving grace is difficult for you, share how you feel when you are offended, know you need to give grace, but just can't bring yourself to give it.
- 3) Five grace-filled responses were discussed today. [1. a soft answer (Proverbs 15:1), 2. kindness (Ephesians 4:32), 3. listening with intent (James 1:19), 4. edifying with your words (Ephesians 4:29), 5. courteousness (Colossians 4:6)]
 - a) Of those five, which one is your greatest strength, and which one is your greatest weakness?
 - b) What can you do to strengthen your weakest area?
- 4) Five points were made about forgiveness. [Forgiveness is: 1. a release, 2. a choice, 3. good for your health, 4. restores joy, and 5. supersedes forgetting.]
 - a) What one point gave you the most hope in your forgiveness of others?
 - b) Read **Colossians 3:12-14**. How does remembering how much God had forgiven you help you to forgive others?

Works:

- Is there someone in your life you have wronged, and you need to ask for their forgiveness? Write that person's initials here: _____. Ask God to go before you and prepare the heart of that person to receive your apology and offer you forgiveness.
- Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? Write that person's initials here: _____. Pray about going to that person and offering forgiveness, even if they haven't asked for it.

