

THE GRACE OF GOD

WHAT IS GRACE?

BIBLE STUDY



Grace is one of the most commonly used words when we seek to describe our Christian faith.

The apostle Paul was blown away by God's grace, which radically changed his life.

In this study we will be looking at one of his famous outpourings in a letter he sent to the early church in Rome.

STARTER:

How would you describe God's love to someone from a different faith or no faith background?



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Read Romans 5 : 1-11

Look over the following verses, put together a picture of what we are given because of God's grace. Think about what we have been given; what we have now; and what we have assurance of for the future.

If you find some of the words hard to understand in an everyday context, you may like to look the passage up in the Message which gives a wonderful fresh translation.

'We are justified and have peace with God - we have access into grace by faith'

v 1-2

'God's love is poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit'

v5

'Christ died for the ungodly and intervenes for the powerless'

v6-8

'We are saved by Jesus' life - grace is because of Jesus'

v10

'Even though we are sinners, we can be reconciled with God'

v11

THINK IT THROUGH

- How do we know that God loves us, from this passage?
- When we stand before God, why would God accept us?

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GOING DEEPER

Jesus told many stories that help us to understand grace. Look at one of the most familiar stories that Jesus told. Imagine how marvellous and yet how shocking this story would have been to his listeners.

What do you think Jesus wanted his listeners to understand about God our Father?

Read Luke 15 : 11-24

Find places in the story where we see aspects of grace that are wonderfully ours today:

- It's only because of Jesus
- We access it by faith
- It is for the forgiveness of sin
- It achieves reconciliation and access to God
- It is for sinners



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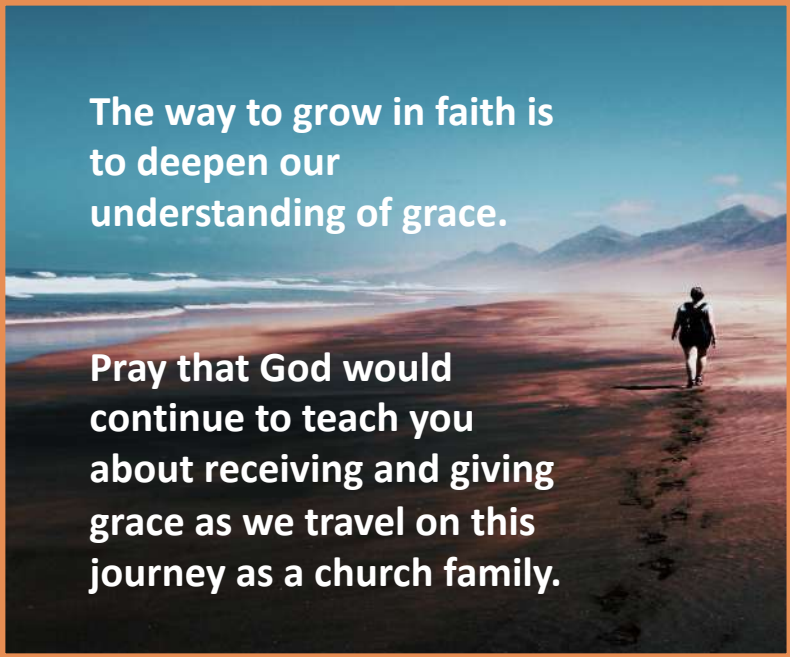
REFLECTION

Tim Keller said:

'God sees us as we are, loves us as we are, and accepts us as we are. But by His grace, He does not leave us as we are'.

Considering what you have learned, think about:

- What was needed in order for the prodigal son to return to his Father? **(Luke 15 v 19, 21)**
- What would you say to someone who said that feeling unworthy **(v21)** is incompatible with our understanding of a God of grace?



The way to grow in faith is to deepen our understanding of grace.

Pray that God would continue to teach you about receiving and giving grace as we travel on this journey as a church family.