

# THE GRACE OF GOD

COSTLY GRACE

## BIBLE STUDY



### STARTER:

What are some of the ways that it is costly to live as a believer in Jesus?

Why and when do you think we may avoid talking about the cost involved in following Jesus?

*Although God's gift of underserved favour (grace) is free, it should never appear cheap - that is, grace enjoyed for what it gives us, but with no understanding of what it cost Jesus, or how it transforms our lives.*

An aerial photograph of a river with white water rapids, set against a dark background. The text 'THE GRACE OF GOD RUNS DEEP' is overlaid in white, with each line of text on a thin yellow horizontal bar.

THE GRACE  
OF GOD  
RUNS DEEP



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### Read 1 Corinthians 15 : 1-11

- **In verse 1**, Paul begins this chapter by reminding the believers in the church at Corinth of the gospel that they received and ‘on which you have taken your stand’. What does it mean to receive and take a stand on the gospel?
- **In verse 2**, Paul tells us we are saved ‘if we hold firmly to the word’. Do you think this happens as a one-off or over the course of our lives - or both? How does it happen?
- **Verses 3-8** are an early Christian creed that outlines the key components of the Gospel message.
- Why is it important to understand that the truths of the gospel, as outlined here, are ‘of primary importance’ (**v.3**)? How can we avoid getting distracted by matters of ‘secondary importance’?
- **Verses 9-10** - Why does Paul remind his readers of his past and the part God’s grace has played in who he is now?
- Paul is using this chapter to remind the Corinthians of the core gospel. Why is it so important to continue to remember what the gospel means for us as believers? What is the danger if we forget what it cost Jesus to win our salvation?





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Jesus told two parables about the Kingdom of heaven being something that was pursued with great purpose, and which resulted in great riches. *(The Kingdom of Heaven is God's reign over the lives of those who worship him as their King).*

### Read Matthew 13 : 44-46

- What is the treasure in these parables?
- What evidence is there that the man in each parable considered his discovery to be something highly valuable?
- If we consider the good news about Jesus to be valuable, how should we live?
- What price is asked of us if we want to find the treasure? What does this look like?





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*Dietrich Bonhoeffer coined the phrase 'costly grace'. He said 'Above all, it is (costly) grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.'*

- Remind yourselves of the sacrifice that Jesus made **(1 Corinthians 15 v 3)**; and what was won for us by this sacrifice **(v2)**.
- We are not saved by simply mouthing the words that *'Jesus is Lord'* but by a living, active faith, in response to the sacrifice that he made for us.
- As we think through what Jesus did for us, what do you think it looks like to grow in maturity as a believer?





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PRAY

*Use some of the thoughts and verses from today's study to inspire you to worship Jesus for what he did for us, and to ask forgiveness for times when we lose sight of the treasure of grace.*

EPHESIANS 2:8

**FOR IT IS BY GRACE YOU HAVE  
BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH—  
AND THIS NOT FROM YOURSELVES,  
IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD—**