

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

How have you specifically experienced God's grace today or this week? Thank God for that together.

GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE:

It's been said that you are "preaching" something to yourself all day, every day. Pay attention to what you dwell on this week, where your thoughts go during down time and throughout your days. **How can you put more gospel-truth into those spaces?**

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Along with the two recommended books from previous weeks, here are two other resources:

Grace by Max Lucado

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/preach-the-gospel-to-yourself>

MEMORY VERSE:

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5:24-26, ESV

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES:

The Prayer of Examen is an ancient practice designed to help you notice the places that God shows up in your day. There are four steps to this daily practice: (1) Acknowledge and invite God's presence in, (2) Express gratitude to him, (3) Examen your past day alongside God, (4) Look ahead and ask for guidance and help. Use one of the following questions to help you examine your day with God in step 3: *Where did I experience Christ living through me? Where was the fruit of the Spirit evident or lacking? Where is God trying to get my attention?*



To be a Christ centered community helping people faithfully follow Jesus both locally and globally.

Leader Resource Guide for October 17, 2021

Pastor Brian Berg

Galatians 3

The Place of Grace

ROOTED
in Grace



SERMON NOTES

1. A Place of **REST**.
2. A Place of **FAITH**.
3. A Place of **PROMISE**.
4. A Place of **PARTNERSHIP**.
5. A Place of **HUMILITY**.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

How are you (and your family) adjusting to your fall routine?

As you have been thinking about the idea of "Jesus AND..." in your life as a means to earn God's acceptance and favor, have there been any new discoveries?

CHRIST CENTERED DISCUSSION:

1. Pastor Brian described the "place of grace" in five words this week. Review what those words are. Read Romans 5:1-2. How do these verses explain the gospel and how we get to this place of grace?
Continue to help your group members articulate the true gospel using passages we've referenced the last few weeks: Galatians 1:4, Colossians 1:13-14, Ephesians 2:1-10, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Titus 2:11-14, Colossians 2:13-14; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Peter 1:3-5.
2. Review the 5 words that describe *the place of grace* (sermon notes) and then pick one or two of them and use the questions below to guide discussion.

REST

- a. When we are tempted to earn God's favor by decreasing how much we sin or by increasing the good things we do, what does that ultimately produce in us? What does that reveal about what we believe about God's character, his posture towards us and our perceived ability to earn grace and good standing with God? What does Galatians 3:3 have to say about this?
- b. Exchange names within your group. Pray for the other person this week that the gospel would be real and present in their lives, that they would know that they "need no other argument or no other plea. It is enough that Jesus died and that He died for them." (From the song "Resting Place"). Pray right now.

FAITH

- a. If you have already believed and accepted the truth of the gospel, you are saved by faith. It is said "we should preach the Gospel to ourselves daily." What does that look like for a person who has placed their trust for salvation in Jesus alone?
*There is not one right answer to this question. But here is a suggestion for a daily practice: Admit to God you're a sinner - Romans 3:23. Accept God's promised forgiveness - 1 John 1:9 9 and Isaiah 43:25. Acknowledge to God that your only hope for forgiveness is because of Jesus - Romans 8:1-4. Ask the Holy Spirit to make the Gospel alive to you again and again - Romans 8:26. Also, watch the video provided in "For Further Study". *The Gospel Primer* (book available for sale at the Info Center for \$6) is another incredible tool.*
- b. Review your sermon notes on "A Place of Faith". How would you describe biblical faith in your own words?

- c. How does each Old Testament quote (Galatians 3:10-13) expose the problem of trying to be right with God by trusting in one's ability to keep his law? See Philippians 3:2-9 where Paul relates his story, which illustrates the problem. Revisit Galatians 2:15-21. James 2:10 is also helpful. How does Jesus solve this problem for us (v. 13-14)?

PROMISE

- a. Why is it important to the Jewish readers of Galatians to understand that the gospel being preached to them is consistent with (not in contrast to) the promise given to Abraham?
- b. How does the example of Abraham support Paul's argument? How is faith in Christ a fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham?
- c. How would you explain the promised righteousness (v.6), blessing (v.10), and Spirit (v. 14) to someone who shows an interest in the Christian faith?

PARTNERSHIP

- a. When we have faith in Jesus, what promise do we receive?
See Galatians 3:2-4 and Galatians 3:14.
- b. How do Galatians 3:19 and 23 explain what the law's purpose actually is? See also Romans 3:20. How is the law different than the partnership that believers have with the Holy Spirit? Why was the law necessary?
- c. How does this partnership with the Spirit guide how you live? What evidence of God's Spirit is in your life? (See Galatians 5:17-26 for some evidence of the presence or lack of God's Spirit in human life.)

HUMILITY

- a. By grace, those who are in Christ are adopted into God's family (Gal 3:29) and heirs of the same promise made to Abraham (see Gen. 12:1-3, Gen. 15:5-6). We are on a level playing field with other believers. If we truly believe that our fellow Christians are all part of this same family, sent to bless the earth, how would that change how we live in our life groups? in the community around us?
Dig into the direct implications of our familial identity - how are families meant to live with one another - caring, supporting, encouraging, forgiving, etc. Use this time as a temperature check for your own group. How are you doing?
- b. What are some contemporary cultural barriers which separate people? What does 3:28 mean in that context? How should believers model Christ-centeredness when faced with these societal barriers?