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## Sermon Discussion Guide

Grace - Tim Knipp  
March 21, 2021

### Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key questions by bolding them**.
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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#### Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
- 1. In the sermon Tim asked the question “Who has been a person who both totally accepted you right where you are at and at the same time, had really high hopes and expectations for you?” Talk about examples of these people in your own lives.
- 2. Is there anything about the paradox that God loves and accepts us just as we are yet at the same time desires to completely transform us that is confusing for you or makes you uncomfortable?

#### Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
  - **Romans 8:1-4**
  - **Romans 8:12-15**
  - **Ezekiel 36: 25-27**
- 3. Read Romans 8:1-4. What do you think Paul meant by “the law being weakened by the flesh”? What does it mean to be *in Christ Jesus*?
- 4. Read Romans 8:12-15. Has this truth about God’s acceptance and love of you changed the way that you relate to others? Has this truth changed the way that you relate to yourself?
- 5. Read Ezekiel 36:25-27. Talk about the role of the Holy Spirit in transforming our hearts through grace.



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#### Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
  
- 6. Try to imagine a society that holds this paradox of loving and accepting one another for who they are but simultaneously desiring for themselves and one another to constantly become more like God. What would this look like in a large community of people?
  
- 7. We live in a culture that preaches self love and acceptance of all but at the same time is quick to condemn people for their moral decisions. This can feel confusing at times. How does God's paradox of Grace fit into this equation? How can we help bring this paradox into the society we live in?

#### Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
  
- 8. Tim described C.S. Lewis's metaphor of us being a house that God is constantly remodeling to make into a palace for him to live inside of. Do you feel that God is trying to make renovations or add ons to your house right now? If so what changes is he looking to make in order to transform you into something new?
  
- 9. Reflect on Paul's words "there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus." Do you feel that you really believe this? Do you love and accept yourself despite your sin? If this is a hard truth for you to accept why do you think that is the case? Make a goal this week to lean into this topic by drawing near to God through a daily habit of some kind.



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Time of Prayer