

Week Beginning: 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2017

Worship Series: #1 in series



**lifegroups**  
live life abundantly

living sharing growing

### Theme Verse

Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

John 1:16

### Remember This Week

Grace is the life changing, washing, drenching wave of God's love that immerses us with a constant stream of strength and protection. It renews daily, giving us freedom to live fully and love others extravagantly.



Psalm 67:1-2



**May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face shine on us—  
so that your ways may be known on earth,  
your salvation among all nations.**

Lord God, there is no greater gift that you give than the amazing grace that comes in your Son, Jesus Christ. You went all in and held nothing back to give us a place in your presence; a place where we are loved, accepted and known by you forever. So shine your face on us as we gather in your name and immerse us in the fullness of your grace that we may know unreservedly that we are loved by you. Fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may not hold back anything, but be all in; loving you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and splashing those around us with the same grace that we have received in the name of the one you love, Jesus Christ. Amen.



1. *Highs and lows for the week.*
2. *Accountability time. How did you go with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *When it comes to jumping in the pool or surf, are you a 'dip your toe in', 'wade up to your waist' or an 'all in' kind of person? Does it depend on the circumstances?*
4. *What is something in your life that you have gone all in on? Why did you go all in?*

*There's nothing quite like it. Those days when temperatures are high, bodies are overheated, energy is sapped and patience is low. Desperation is in the air. Anything to get some relief: a pool, the beach. There is no tentative dipping in of the toes...it's all in. You have to submerge completely to get the full impact, and how transforming it is. That first gasp of air when returning to the surface is filled with freedom, energy and a renewed spirit. That's what grace is like. When you are totally immersed in the revitalising waters of God's unfailing grace, it will transform every part, every relationship in your life. So don't hold back...go all in and experience the joy and delight of the one who went all in for you. Jesus Christ.*



Read John 1:14-18

5. *How would you explain 'grace' to someone who doesn't have any idea what the word means? What does "grace" mean to you?*
6. *How does this passage help you understand what grace is all about?*
7. *What do you think it means when John writes, "you have received grace in place of grace already received" or as another translation says, "Grace upon grace"?*
8. *Grace is scandalous. It's hard to accept. Hard to believe. Hard to receive. What is it about grace that is hardest for you to understand or really grasp?*



The word grace is commonly used these days. We talk about the bank or the electricity company giving us a grace period. We talk about politicians, business or church leaders falling from grace. We describe an actress as gracious or a dancer as being graceful. We say grace before a meal, or even call our children by that name. As a Church we talk about "grace alone", we sing songs about it, most pastors preach on it, but it still remains a mystery for people. So what is grace? Theologian John Stott says,

**"Grace is God loving, God stooping, God coming to the rescue, God giving himself generously in and through Jesus Christ."**

9. *Do you think this is a good definition of grace? Why or why not?*

Read Ephesians 2:4-10

10. *How does Stott's definition above match up with Paul's word's in Ephesians 2? Why is grace a gift?*

11. *What were you like before you are immersed in grace, and what are you like after receiving grace according to these verses?*

Grace is God's undeserved favour toward sinners. There is nothing in you and nothing you do that moves God to forgive you. God is gracious to us because of Jesus Christ and because of Him alone. Paul tells us in Ephesians 1:7 (NLT): **He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.** See also Romans 3:24-25 (New Living Translation). Luther in his explanation to the second article of the Apostles' Creed says this:

**I believe that Jesus Christ – true God, son of the Father from eternity, and also true human being, born of the Virgin Mary – is my Lord.**

**At great cost he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person.**

**He has freed me from sin, death and the power of the devil,**

**not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death.**

**All this he has done that I may be his own, live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting**

**righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.**

**This is most certainly true.**



Christ went all in for you, His grace has come to you. A love for a humanity that didn't deserve it. A forgiveness for those who didn't even realize they needed it. Life for those who didn't appreciate was real living was all about. A future for those who had already discarded it. Grace has come with a few spoken words and a little water splashed on your head in baptism as God welcomes you into his family, rescues you from the darkness of sin and forgives you because of what Jesus did on the cross. Grace comes as you eat the very body of Christ and drink the very blood poured out for you on the cross. Grace comes wave after relentless wave in your life to tell you unmistakably as you look in the mirror each day, 'I am the one God loves.'

12. *How have you been changed/shaped/bowled over by God's unrelenting grace in your life?*

13. *How would your life be different if you could confidently say and believe "I am the one God loves?" Do you believe it?*

14. *When it comes to your Christian faith, where would you consider that you are at right now? A toe in the water, up to your waist, or all in and fully immersed in God's grace? Explain.*

15. *What prevents you from going all in when it comes to a relationship with Jesus Christ? What needs to change to help you jump in and splash around in God's grace?*

16. *How can the LifeGroup give you a gentle push so you jump in boots and all to the grace God wants to immerse your life in?*



- Praise God for holding nothing back but going all in so you could have an eternal relationship with him. Thank Jesus for coming all in to the mess of this world to rescue you and fill your life with his overflowing stream of grace. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you daily immerse yourselves in the waters of baptism that you may know with certainty that you belong to him.
- Pray that your splashing around joyfully in God's grace in life may be the cause for others asking how they can get wet and join in the delight of being immersed in God's grace.
- For those who are struggling with identity or self-worth, that they may be able to say, "I am the one God loves."



Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

*Name, may you splash around daily in God's grace. Amen.*