



Followers of Jesus Christ

Series Overview

Following Christ involves a wholehearted commitment. Disciples become like the Master, learners become like the Teacher. Christianity is not simply a ticket to heaven. No self-serving version of Christianity will bring us to maturity in Christ, allowing the church to minister and serve God, others, and the world. No self-centered version of Christianity will let us enjoy the fullness of Christianity in full-faced relationship with Christ. Answering the call to follow Jesus turns our lives in a different direction. We can't follow unless we go where he leads. This series of small group discussions looks at centering our lives on Christ, weathering the storms of life, going where Jesus goes, caring for others, and focusing on God's grace.



June 14, 2009

Session Five: Grateful for God's Grace

Theme: *Because we can never earn God's favor, grace is a difficult concept for us to grasp. Our actions are not meritorious, but God's favor is extended in special ways to those who respond to his love.*

Texts: Luke 11:23; John 1:1–17; Ephesians 1:3–23

Summary: This study will encourage and reassure you that God accepts you (by grace) and will give you the power to do anything he asks you to do (by grace).

Ice Breakers

When have you been most aware of God's grace in your life?

When have you been most grateful to God?

Are you more grateful at church or away from church?

Bible Study

When Jesus spoke of those with him and those against him, his disciples probably thought....

At least we're on the right side!

I wonder who he's talking about.

Are we with him?

How can he support people who are not with us?

That Jesus came as one full of grace and truth probably means....

Jesus came to treat other people right

Jesus came to accurately reveal God to the world

Jesus acted like no one else had ever acted because he came from the Father

He came as one to undo the negative impact of the Old Testament Law

John 1 is a passage about Jesus' identity, indicating the gift God gave. Which of the descriptions in this passage is most meaningful to you?

- Word of God
- Son of God
- Bringer of grace and truth
- Light and Life

God's grace in Ephesians 1 probably refers to....

- Every spiritual blessing in Christ
- Our selection to holiness
- Our setting apart as his sons through adoption
- Our redemption
- The establishment of the church under the headship of Jesus

Applying

As a group, make a list of the spiritual blessings in Christ mentioned in Ephesians 1. Which of these are you most grateful for? Why?

What are some of the dangers of overemphasizing God's grace to the elimination of human responsibility?

What are some of the dangers of overemphasizing human responsibility to the elimination of God's grace?

Connecting

Make an agreement to meet someone in your group or in the church this week (in person, or by phone) for the specific purpose of talking about God's grace.

This week, talk to at least one other person outside of your group (and outside the church) about how grateful you are for the grace of God in your life.

Ask at least one other person how they understand grace.