



Trans-form Notes

IMAGES OF GOD God of Love and Grace

Reflect: (Spend time with God thinking about these statements or questions)

- ❖ Take some time to read and meditate on Romans 5:6-8; 12:1 and Galatians 2:17-3:29.

Interact: (Discuss the following questions with your group, some friends, or just you and God)

- ❖ Have you ever felt guilt and shame as a Christian? Why did you have that guilt? Was it from yourself or from others?
- ❖ Do you believe you have truly experienced the reality and power of grace? If so, how do you know? Give some examples. If you haven't, why do you believe you have not?
- ❖ Have everyone in the group look up one of these passages and then discuss how scriptures describe grace.
Luke 2:39-40 John 1:14-17 Acts 4:31-33
Acts 20:24, 32 Romans 5:1-2 1 Cor. 15:9-10
2 Cor. 12:7-9 Heb. 4:14-16 2 Peter 3:17-18
Revelation 22:21
- ❖ How have these passages changed or grown your idea of God's grace?
- ❖ What is the difference between a focus on service (what I do for God) and a focus on grace (what God does for me)?¹
- ❖ In what ways have you seen in the church or Christian community the subtle distinction that salvation is "by grace" but living the Christian life is "by my own strength"?²
- ❖ Read Romans 6:1. Why do you think teaching and living in grace is risky? Are you or others you know afraid of grace?
- ❖ Do you believe the Christian life is more about what you do for God or what God does for you? Explain your point.
- ❖ Read Matthew 12:7. In what ways is legalism a denial or avoidance of grace? Have you ever felt like you have lived your spiritual life based on performance?

- ❖ How do you experience receiving grace from God? Give some examples.
- ❖ Read Romans 12:1 and Galatians 2:19-20. What should be the result of receiving grace from God? Do you find yourself "mid-stream" in the flow of God's grace? Do you feel you have grace to give to others?
- ❖ As a group please look to the *Apply* section and go over together the first suggestion.

Apply: (Look for ways to apply at least one concept to your life)

- ❖ What aspects of grace are or have been present at University Praise? In what areas is grace absent? For each area you identify list a plan that would allow God to flow His grace through you to others. What potential issues or cost do you foresee as you attempt to express grace in and through our church? How can you support one another as you begin to share grace with others?³
- ❖ We often tend to want to stay in complete control of our lives. We define ourselves by our roles (Parent, sibling, friend, profession) and even our qualities like kind, funny, and angry... Spend some time letting go of those identities by naming them and confessing them to God. *I am not*_____. (Fill in the blank for anything that you identify yourself with besides God.) Then spend some time affirming your true identity after reading John 10:1-42. *We are loved, protected, cherished, given life that will never perish, and promised union in a relationship with our creator, we are his beloved children (1 John 3:1)*

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¹ Michael Bischof, *Journey in Community* pg. 5 *Grace*

² Ibid

³ Michael Bischof, *Journey in Community*, pg. 12 *Grace*