



**HATFIELD
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 4 WEEK 6

22 November 2018

Greater grace

‘For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God’
Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)

Icebreaker

Have you ever been granted access to somewhere special where you would not normally have been allowed? OR What can you remember about your first day of school. Share your stories.

Introduction

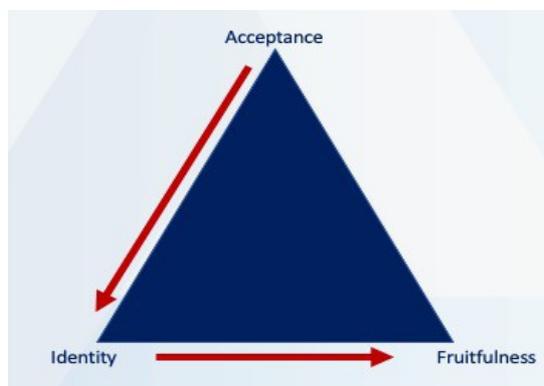
Grace is one of the foundational principles of Christianity and sets it apart from other religions. Grace means that we do not have to work our way to God – He came down to us! The starting point for the Gospel is that God loves us. This love is unearned and stems from His character – He chose us (Ephesians 1:4) because He is love. The impact of His love is that it shapes our identity. Our identity is not simply a by-product of our relationships with others or our choices. We are shaped by the knowledge of His love. When the grace of God grips our hearts, it transforms the way we live in the world causing us to bear fruit and display this grace to others.

Discussion

- What is your description of grace?
Receiving kindness or favour that we don't deserve. God's riches at Christ's expense.
- Read Ephesians 2:8-10. Notice the reference to *works*. This Scripture seems to contradict itself – on the one hand it says we are not saved by works, and yet we are to do good works. How do you understand this?

We cannot earn God's love and our salvation – it is a free gift. However, once we have received this gift, it should so transform our lives that we lead fruitful lives to the glory of God.

- Divide into groups of two or three and take turns discussing the flow of grace illustrated by the diagram below. How have you seen this operate in your life?



- Do you find that you are wrestling in your relationship with God, trying to prove your worth to Him and/or others? Why is this so – life experience, incorrect teaching, etc.? What needs to change?
- Grace is free but not cheap. It costs the giver not the receiver. Do you have a story to tell about this? Is there a Scripture that comes to mind?
- Read James 4:1-10. What is the key to receiving more grace?
Humility. When we humbly acknowledge that we have nothing to offer, have no credentials of our own, and cannot make a way, we are in the perfect position to receive the free gift of God's grace.
- How do you see the flow of grace operating in your family and/or workplace?
- How will this message change the way that you live?

Prayer

- Pray for those who find it hard to know the love and acceptance of the Father.
- Pray for those who are struggling in the area of their identity.
- Pray for fruitfulness in our lives and areas of influence.

Talk to us

Do you have any questions regarding what it means to be a disciple? Is there anything you do not understand about Kingdom Living (Up In Out)? We invite you to forward your questions to: TalkToUs@hatfield.co.za The input we receive here will be considered and the last sermon in the series will be used to address a selection of these questions. Why not send in some questions from your life group?