

**In the beginning... Grace.**

Genesis 1,15, & Romans 4

**Grace is always a gift!**

2 Corinthians 9:14-15; Ephesians 2:1-10

**Giving grace to others helps you see, accept and believe that God has grace for you!**

Luke 7:36-50

**The Elephant... It's not fair.**

Matthew 20:1-16

*Ask the Lord today to help you celebrate the grace you see Him pour out on others and to recognize the grace He's given you.*

*Turn a message into a conversation. Use these questions to have a conversation with someone about this week's message.*

Have you had difficulty seeing someone receive something they didn't deserve or that you feel they didn't deserve?

What can result if this difficulty is left to fester?

**Read:** Genesis 4:1-8.

Cain did not like God accepting his brother Abel and his gift. What was the result?

*Although envy may not lead you to murder, it has brought about the death of many relationships. If this has been a weakness for you, take some time right now to ask Jesus to help head this off before envy takes root in your life. Like with Cain, God desires to help your heart through the Holy Spirit.*

**Read:** John 3:16,17

From this verse, does it sound like Jesus is more concerned about the things we do or who we believe? Why?

*Grace is the unmerited favor of God. It's always a gift that we receive. Grace is never earned!*

**Read:** Ephesians 2:1-10

The Scriptures say before Christ we are dead. What are some other words that describe our condition before believing in Jesus?

After believing in Jesus, what is our condition through God's love?

This grace of God changes us into something new. Take a moment to describe – from this passage – our new identity in Jesus Christ:

What is a way you can show grace and kindness to others this week?

### **Best Year Ever Prayer**

*Lord Jesus,*

*I pray that you would work in me  
that I might reflect you more.*

*I pray that you work for me  
that I may be blessed by you.*

*I pray that you work through me  
that I may be an instrument of your love and grace.*

*I give you permission to work in me, for me, and through me  
according to your purpose.*

*Amen*

## **THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS**

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful relationships with Jesus and each other through the study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25).

Here's how we accomplish this in our community:

### **SHARE**

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

### **STUDY**

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

### **SUPPORT**

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

### **SERVE**

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's kingdom.

Spring session of Life Groups begin next Sunday! See the insert in this worship folder or online to find yours today: [www.seekreallife.com](http://www.seekreallife.com)