

DISCOVER
GRACE 

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

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*...And this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God.*



Session 1: Getting the Gospel

Video Discussion

1. What was new, helpful, or challenging for you from the video?
2. Did the video stir up any questions that you would like to ask?
3. The gospel is news, good news, and powerful news. Which of these aspects of the gospel is hardest for you to believe or live out of? Which comes most naturally for you?
4. In your own words, talk about how the gospel could be “powerful” news:

Bible Study: Read Luke 15:11-32

1. If the gospel is all a matter of extravagant grace, what incentive do we have for living a disciplined life of obedience?

2. Describe the offense of the younger son. What is so objectionable about his actions?

3. Why do you think the younger son returns with the intention of being a hired servant (15:18-19)? And why does he then abandon that plan?

4. Describe the scene upon the son's return in your own words. List some adjectives to describe the father in this parable.

5. This parable could end at verse 24. Why must it include verses 25-32? What is the message of the conclusion of this parable?

6. With which of the two sons do you most closely identify and why?

Take Home Questions

Answer these questions on your own time this week and, if you're comfortable, find one or two people to share your answers with.

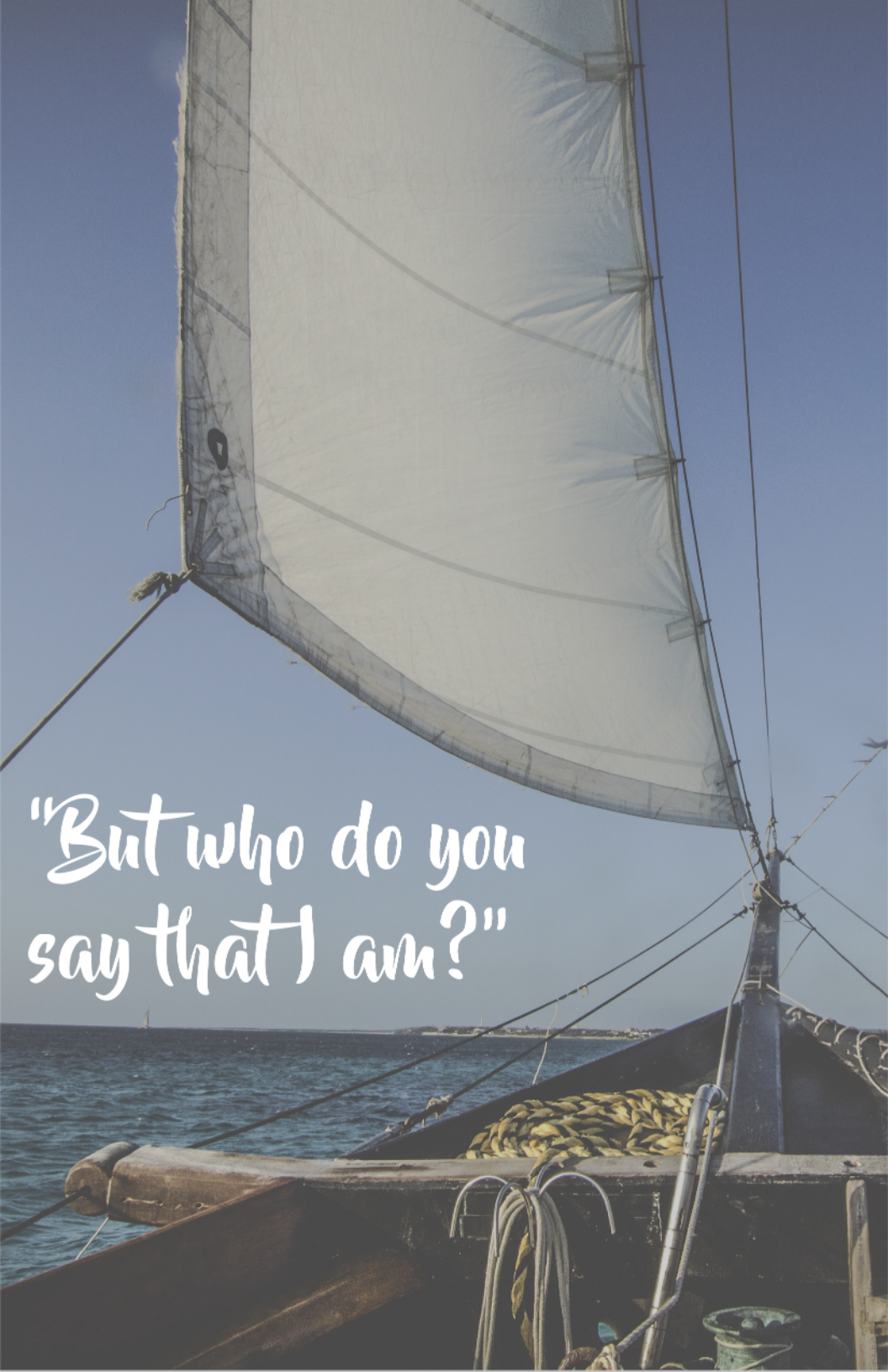
1. What was particularly challenging or helpful for you about this lesson?
2. In your own words, what is the Gospel?
3. How is the gospel more than just the "entry point" into the Christian life?
4. What keeps us from coming to God after we sin? Is that legitimate? If not, what underlying false belief does it expose?

5. Consider your life in Christ at the present moment: How much value does the gospel have? Would you say you're "growing in the gospel"? If so, why/how? If not, why?

6. Think of the adjectives we used to describe the father in Luke 15. Are you actively conscious that God your Father is like that?

7. Try to memorize Ephesians 2:8-9 this week.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.



*"But who do you
say that I am?"*

Session 2: Becoming a Disciple

Video Discussion

1. What was new, helpful, or challenging for you from the video?
2. Did the video stir up any questions that you would like to ask?
3. A disciple is a life-apprentice of Jesus, by grace, and by choice. Which part of this definition is more challenging for you and why?
4. Do you ever tend to view life with God like a motorboat, or a raft? Why? What makes viewing life with God like a sailboat a challenge for us?

Bible Study: read Luke 9:18-27

1. What is the relationship between verses 18-22 and 23-27? How do verses 18-22 set the context for Jesus' discussion of discipleship?

2. What does the metaphor of the cross convey? Why would Jesus use such a repugnant image in describing discipleship?

3. In what sense is following Christ a kind of death? What does it mean to die daily?

4. How does the metaphor of the cross also evoke hope for would-be disciples? What happens when we follow Jesus into this 'death'?

Take Home Questions

Answer these questions on your own time this week and, if you're comfortable, find one or two people to share your answers with.

1. What was particularly challenging or helpful for you about this lesson?

2. Do you find the demands of discipleship (prayer, Bible reading [Mark 12:28-31], evangelism, the fruit of the Spirit [Galatians 5:22], etc.) burdensome? Why or why not?

3. In what areas of your life do you most resist surrendering to the authority of Christ? Where are you not following Him?

4. Consider your response to the previous question. What excuses do you make for not following Jesus completely? Is your resistance a matter of will (I don't want to) or a matter of trust (I know better)?

5. How does/should the gospel (see Session 1) fuel your desire to follow Christ as a disciple?

6. Try to memorize Matthew 28:18-20 this week.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

He brought us forth
by the word of truth.



Session 3: Reading God's Word

Video Discussion

1. What was new, helpful, or challenging for you from the video?
2. Did the video stir up any questions that you would like to ask?
3. Can you relate to some of the misconceptions about Bible study? Can you think of others?
4. How does Psalm 1 describe a life that is rooted in and fed by God's Word?
5. We were encouraged to pick a book of the Bible, focus on one paragraph at a time, and write down the point. Which book of the Bible would you like to study?

Bible Study: read James 1:16-25

1. What are some of the things this passage teaches us about "the word of truth?"

2. Reflect for a moment on James 1:18. What did God do in us through the word of truth? Can you recall when God used the word of truth to bring about the new birth in you?

3. Reflect on James 1:19-21. What does God command us to do with "the implanted word?" List three avenues through which you can regularly receive the word.

4. Reflect on James 1:22-25. What is the point of this paragraph? What does God command us to do with the word?

5. We've learned three ways to respond to the word of truth: (1) listen, (2) receive, and (3) obey. Which of these would you like to begin to apply?

Take Home Questions

Answer these questions on your own time this week and, if you're comfortable, find one or two people with whom you can share your answers.

1. What was particularly challenging or helpful about this lesson?

2. In some ways, reading the Bible is an acquired taste. That's why the video talk challenged us to a 31-day experiment:
 - i. Pick a book
 - ii. Read a paragraph each day
 - iii. What is the point of the paragraph?
 - iv. What do I learn about God or Christ in this paragraph?
 - v. What's a thought or verse that I can take with me.

3. Are you ready to try the 31-day experiment? With which book of the Bible would you like to start?

*"Come to me, all who labor
and are heavy laden, and
I will give you rest."*



Session 4: Entering God's Presence

Video Discussion

1. What was new, helpful, or challenging for you from the video?
2. Did the video stir up any questions that you would like to ask?
3. Do you believe that God hears you? If yes, what gives you confidence? If no, what makes you doubt?
4. Think about the ACTS prayer. Which of the four (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication) might be easiest for you? Which of the four might you struggle with the most? Why?

Bible Study: read Matthew 6:9-13

1. As a group, discuss what this famous prayer teaches us about prayer. List as many things as you can.

2. Which of the four aspects of the ACTS model does “hallowed be thy name” model?

3. What does “your kingdom come, your will be done” teach us about supplication?

4. Why is it especially important for us (as 21st-century Americans) to pray “give us this day our daily bread”?

5. John Calvin said that we do not rightly pray unless we are convinced that God is our Father. Why is the beginning of the Lord’s Prayer so significant to our understanding of the rest?

Take Home Questions

Answer these questions on your own time this week and, if you're comfortable, find one or two people to share your answers with.

1. What was particularly challenging or helpful for you about this lesson?
2. How regularly do you pray? What might be some good steps for you toward deepening your communication with God?
3. How should the gospel (Session 1) and being a disciple (Session 2) motivate and inform prayer? Why?
4. What about God jumps out to you as adoration worthy and why?
5. What is challenging for you about confession? What makes confession freeing?

6. Would you consider yourself a thankful person? Why or why not?

7. How do you feel about asking God for things in your life? Which “ditch” do you gravitate toward and why?

8. Try to memorize Matthew 11:28 this week.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

For in one Spirit we
were all baptized
into one body.



Session 5: Engaging in Community

Video Discussion

1. What was new, helpful, or challenging for you from the video?
2. Did the video stir up any questions that you would like to ask?
3. Can you identify, from your experience, with any of the first three quadrants?
4. Which of the four quadrants best expresses your current approach to community?
5. What are some of the marks of gospel community? Which of these would be an opportunity of growth for you?

Isolation	Pseudo Community
Negative Community	Gospel Community

Bible Study: read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

This passage addresses three common misconceptions about Christian community, and about the church.

Misconception #1: Church is a spectator sport.

1. Take a few moments to reflect on 1 Corinthians 12:12-13. What are some things that we learn about the church in these few verses?

2. The church community is described as a “body.” Why would Paul (the author of 1 Corinthians) use that analogy? What are some differences between being part of a “body” and a being a spectator at an event, such as a football game or a concert?

Misconception #2: I’m not needed.

3. Take some moments to reflect on 1 Corinthians 12:14-20. What do you see as the overall point of this paragraph?

4. According to 1 Corinthians 12:15, some felt inferior because they thought they were a lesser part of the body. What are some ways that people might feel inferior or unneeded?

5. Some of us might say, “I’ll skip church or community group, they’ll do fine without me.” How might this passage challenge that view?

Misconception #3: I don’t need others.

6. Take a few moments to read 1 Corinthians 12:21-26. What would you say is the overall point of the paragraph?

7. According to this passage, some felt superior to others in the church. What are some ways that people might feel superior today?

8. Some of us might say, "I'll stick with a close group of friends and not make room in my life or in my group for others." How might this passage challenge that view?

Take Home Questions

Answer these questions on your own time this week and, if you're comfortable, find one or two people with whom to share your answers.

1. The gospel says that we are "more sinful than we ever imagined but more loved than we ever dreamed." How might this truth help us with inferiority? With superiority?

2. Christian community is a "means of grace" (or a "channel of grace") for our spiritual formation and encouragement. Think about a recent, positive experience with community. How was that experience a channel of grace (strength, love, hope) for your heart?

3. Is there a step that you need to take to commit to a gospel community?

4. Try to memorize John 13:35 this week.

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."



Pray also for us, that
God may open to us a
door for the word,
to declare the
mystery of Christ.

Session 6: Telling God's Story

Video discussion

1. What was new, helpful, or challenging for you from the video?
2. Did the video stir up any questions you'd like to ask?
3. The video highlighted several things that hold us back from sharing God's story. Could you relate to those? What else might hold you back?
4. Recall the 4 F's: friendships, faithful prayer, forums, and having a framework (outline of the gospel). Which of these four might be a good step for you?

Bible Study: read Colossians 4:2-6

This is a practical passage for those who might not have the gift of evangelism but who still have a heart for people who are far from God.

1. This is a passage about relating to people who are "outsiders," who are not yet followers of Jesus. What are some things that we are encouraged to do?

2. Reflect on Colossians 4:5. What are some ways that you can simply be friends with people who do not yet have faith in Christ?

3. Read Colossians 4:2-4. What do we learn here about faithful prayer? Are there some people for whom you are praying to come to faith in Christ?

4. Reflect on Colossians 4:3-4. How can you pray for your pastors as they preach the gospel? What would you say to invite a friend to church?

5. Reflect on Colossians 4:6. If a friend or family member were to ask you how to become a Christian, what are some of the things you would say?

