

Grace Empowers the Weak & Humble
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, August 1st 2021



Sermon Title: Grace Empowers the Weak & Humble

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18; 2 Cor 12:6-10; Ephesians 2:1-10; James 4:6

Sermon Focus: America has a mercy and grace problem, as is evident in the lack of it. What is happening? It's time to return to a biblical understanding of God's holiness, our sinfulness, and our need for the gospel of Christ. In this sermon, *Grace Empowers the Weak & Humble*, Pastor David shares how God's grace makes it possible for us to joyfully follow Jesus and experience a community of grace within the church.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began by sharing about a couple of key times in his life when he experienced the mercy and grace of God (i.e., repenting as a teenager like the prodigal son and meeting then marrying his wife). Share with your group some key moments in your life where God's grace was impactful and undeniable.
2. Read John 8:1-11 together. What do you find interesting about this story? What do you think Jesus wrote on the ground? Also, what does it tell us about God's grace that Jesus forgives her and says, "Now go and sin no more"? What is the Spirit speaking to you through this story of God's amazing grace?
3. Pastor David points out that Jesus "fulfills" the Law of Moses (Leviticus 24:19-20) in Matthew 5:38-39. Clearly, Jesus is saying there is a new law—a law of mercy and grace. That is because mercy and grace can do what the law and retributive justice never can. How have you seen the extension of mercy and grace change people and bring healing to others? Why is it so hard to follow Jesus this way?
4. Discuss the following quote. What do you think Dietrich Bonhoeffer meant?
"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ living and incarnate" (*Cost of Discipleship*).
5. Read 2 Corinthians 12:6-10 together. We can imagine and speculate about Paul's "thorn" in the flesh. But more importantly, how does this apply to you and your situation? Be honest and vulnerable as you share about your thorn. And ask, "How is God's grace enough for me in my pain and struggles?"
6. Pastor David ended his message by contrasting a community of performance with a community of grace. What can we work on at Grantham Church to move further in the direction of being a community of grace? Give specific examples. Oh... and start with what you can do to help. Start with yourself.