

## # Small Group Discussion Guide

### ## "Amazing Grace: A Journey from Prodigal to Praise"

\*Based on Jesse's Sermon - November 30th\*

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### ## Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

\*\*Icebreaker Question:\*\* Share a time when someone showed you unexpected grace or forgiveness. How did it make you feel?

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### ## Sermon Summary (5 minutes)

Jesse shared his personal journey from being introduced to Jesus at age 12 through a passion play, to wandering away from faith for 15+ years, and finally returning home as a prodigal son. He emphasized three main themes:

- \*\*Grace\*\* - The undeserved gift of salvation through Christ
- \*\*Humility\*\* - Recognizing our need for God's mercy
- \*\*Transformation\*\* - How accepting Christ changes everything

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### ## Key Scripture Passages

- \*\*2 Timothy 2:13\*\* - "If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny who he is."
- \*\*Luke 15:3-7\*\* - The Parable of the Lost Sheep
- \*\*Ephesians 2:8-9\*\* - Saved by grace through faith
- \*\*2 Corinthians 5:17\*\* - "Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person"

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## ## Discussion Questions

### ### Part 1: Understanding Grace (15-20 minutes)

1. \*\*Jesse said he was "good at sinning" and didn't deserve grace. How does this honesty challenge or encourage you in your own faith journey?\*\*
2. \*\*Read Ephesians 2:8-9 together. Why do you think it's so hard for people to accept that salvation cannot be earned through good works?\*\*
3. \*\*Jesse shared that grace "cost nothing to us but everything to God." How does understanding the cost of grace (Christ's sacrifice) change how we view our salvation?\*\*
4. \*\*The Bible mentions grace over 170 times. Why do you think this concept is so central to the Christian faith?\*\*

### ### Part 2: The Prodigal Journey (15-20 minutes)

5. \*\*Have you ever experienced a "prodigal season" in your life? What brought you back, or what's keeping you away?\*\*
6. \*\*Jesse described how God planted seeds in him as a young person that he didn't realize would grow later. Can you identify "seeds" God planted in your early life that are bearing fruit now?\*\*
7. \*\*Read Luke 15:3-7. What does it mean to you that there is "more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents" than over 99 who don't stray?\*\*
8. \*\*Jesse emphasized that the enemy is real, just as God is real. How have you experienced spiritual warfare in your own life?\*\*

### ### Part 3: Living Out Transformation (15-20 minutes)

9. \*\*Jesse identified three fruits that grace produces: Gratitude, Humility, and Transformation. Which of these do you struggle with most, and why?\*\*

10. \*\*Jesse said "gratitude is an action word" and talked about mowing neighbors' lawns. What are practical ways you show gratitude to God through serving others?\*\*

11. \*\*Jesse's family started respecting the Sabbath and doing nightly Bible studies. What spiritual disciplines have transformed your family or personal life?\*\*

12. \*\*Read James 4:7-10. What does it practically look like to "humble yourself before God" in your daily life?\*\*

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## ## Key Takeaways

\*\*Grace is free to us but cost God everything\*\* - Jesus paid the price with His blood

\*\*No one is righteous\*\* - We all need grace equally, regardless of how "good" we think we are

\*\*Gratitude requires action\*\* - Don't just say you're grateful; show it through service

\*\*Transformation is evidence of genuine faith\*\* - When Christ is in us, we become new people

\*\*God never gives up on the lost\*\* - Like the shepherd searching for one lost sheep, God pursues us

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## ## Practical Applications

### ### This Week's Challenge:

**\*\*Choose ONE of the following to implement this week:\*\***

1. **\*\*Practice Sabbath Rest\*\*** - After church next Sunday, put your phone away and spend intentional time with family or in rest and reflection.
2. **\*\*Start a Family Bible Study\*\*** - Even if it's just 5 minutes, gather your household for a daily devotional or Scripture reading.
3. **\*\*Show Gratitude Through Action\*\*** - Identify one practical way to serve a neighbor, coworker, or fellow church member without being asked.
4. **\*\*Share Your Story\*\*** - Like Jesse did, share your testimony with someone this week—how God showed you grace in your prodigal moments.
5. **\*\*Memorize Grace\*\*** - Choose one of the key verses from today's sermon and commit it to memory.

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**## Reflection & Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**### Personal Reflection Questions:**

- Where am I in my spiritual journey right now—close to God or wandering?
- Am I living like someone who has received amazing grace?
- What needs to transform in my life?

**### Group Prayer Focus:**

- Pray for anyone in the group who is in a "prodigal season"
- Thank God for His undeserved grace and mercy
- Ask for humility to recognize our daily need for Christ
- Pray for transformation in specific areas group members shared
- Lift up families to establish spiritual disciplines at home

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## ## Closing Prayer

\*"God, we are all sinners who fall short daily. Thank You that Your grace is sufficient for us. Thank You that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Help us to live lives marked by gratitude, humility, and genuine transformation. Plant seeds in us today that will bear fruit for Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen."\*

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## ## For Next Week

\*\*Challenge:\*\* Share with the group how your chosen practical application went. What did you learn? How did God show up?

\*\*Bonus:\*\* Read the entire chapter of Luke 15 (all three parables about the lost) and come prepared to discuss what these stories reveal about God's heart for the lost.

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\*"For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people."  
- Titus 2:11\*