

# LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK: AUGUST 24-30, 2025

## SERIES INFO

You're Invited Series: Over four weekends, we'll talk about things that matter most: who Jesus is, why His grace is a gift, what it means to follow Him, and why it's worth it. It's a series for you—and for the person you've been meaning to invite.

## PERSONAL FUN FACTS

Can you remember a time in your life when you needed an extra measure of grace from someone because of something you said or did?

## TAKEAWAYS

What were the greatest “takeaways” you had from the message this week about knowing and understanding God's grace?

## DISCUSSION

### **Houston ... We Have a Sin Problem**

If you recall the movie, Apollo 13, Jim Lovell reported to Mission Control that they had a serious problem on their spaceship. Assessing all the systems and instrumentation they had at their disposal, Gene Kranz, flight director, asked the question, “What do we have on the spacecraft that's good?” That scenario in outer space during a mission to the moon is a good example of how we might understand our own problem as we search within the inner space of ourselves in relation to God: we have a serious problem ... a sin problem. At further examination of our internal wiring and systems, there is nothing we can do ourselves to fix the problem. It is going to take some miraculous undertaking by the One who assembled us to deal with the problem and to get us right. Let's start at the beginning.

### **Scripture: Genesis 1:26—27 “Created in God's Image”**

- What does it mean to be created “in the image of God?”
- What does Scripture say about what happened to the “image of God” within us?
- If sin distorts this image of God within us, what does that “distortion” look like in our everyday lives?

We understand that sin is more than the behaviors we do that are not pleasing to God and that go against His will; it also deals with the damaged and fallen nature within us. The image of God within us is broken and needs to be renewed and even restored.

# LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK: AUGUST 24-30, 2025

## DISCUSSION CONTINUED

### Scripture: Romans 7:18—20 “Trying to Fix it On Our Own”

Scripture also reminds us (Jeremiah 17:9) that *“the heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”* The human problem of sin is deeper than the “sins we commit.” Imagine a tree with diseased roots; trimming the branches will not cure the tree when the problem is much deeper.

- What are some of the “surface” solutions we come up with to try to deal with our sin problem? Why do these things not really work?
- Put yourself in Paul’s shoes in the above passage from Romans. Give some examples that speak to the relationship/difference between the inner sin problem we have and the sins we commit?

### Scripture: Ephesians 2:8—9 “How Does God Fix Our Sin Problem?”

The questions in this section begin to address how God goes about renewing that image of God within us that is broken. As we have seen, there is nothing we can do ourselves to fix the problem. We need help! For God to restore us, we need ... **grace**.

- According to the message this week, how would you describe grace?
- How have you seen God’s grace work **before** you/or someone you know acknowledged Jesus as Savior?
- What exactly does God’s grace **do** to take care of our sin problem?

Grace both pardons our sin problem and transforms the image of God within us, beginning the total restoration of our whole selves in Christ.

- How does Scripture tell us, and how do you believe that we experience God’s grace even after we have become Christ-followers? How have you observed God’s continual grace in your life?

# LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK: AUGUST 24-30, 2025

## APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT

### **Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:18 “Restored From the Inside Out”**

With God's grace, we are now able to reflect the character of God and His love to our world. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” Salvation and the Holy Spirit within us are inseparable expressions of grace. By God's grace, we have salvation; by His grace, He transforms believers into the kind of person Jesus was.

- How does grace give us the power to overcome sin? (see Titus 2:12)
- If God is restoring His image in us by His grace, what should that look like in our relationships, our work, and our daily choices we make?
- How might we be able to show God's grace to someone this week?

### **Personal Reflection:**

Where do you personally sense the Holy Spirit reshaping you by His grace to look more like Jesus?

## PRAYER

Lord, help me to put on my “new self” that you have given to me by your grace. My desire is to be more like Jesus every day, imaged in the likeness of God, and living in righteousness and holiness. Reshape my life to where the image of You within me is fully restored to purity, love, holiness, and truth. Give me grace and forgiveness where I need it. I yield myself to the Spirit's work. In Jesus' name. Amen.