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“Grace is the voice that calls us to change and then gives us the power to pull it off.”
[Max Lucado]

ICEBREAKER

If God's grace were a flavor of ice cream, what flavor would it be and why?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*“The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all his acts.
The Lord is near all who call out to him, all who call out to him with integrity.”*
[Psalm 145:17-18]

BIG IDEA

There should be nothing in our lives that is “off limits” from the power of God’s transforming grace.

PASSAGE

- Philippians 1:1-11

DISCUSSION

1. What stood out to you most about the passage? What most caught your attention?
2. In the sermon we heard, *“By God’s design, grace affects everything.”* What area of your life has been difficult for you to allow God’s grace to affect? Why is that?
3. What does Paul mean by addressing the Philippians as “saints”?
4. What does Paul express in his thanksgiving for the Philippians in v. 3-5? How does expressing gratitude illustrate the nature of God’s grace?
5. How can we emulate the partnership in the Gospel that the Philippians demonstrated?
6. What is significant about Paul's confidence in the Philippians' growth in v. 6? How have you recently demonstrated something similar about someone in your life? If you haven't, who could you do that for this week?
7. How does the assurance of God's ongoing work (grace) in us impact our understanding of growth in the Christian faith?
8. In the sermon we heard, *“Grace is opposed to earning, but it fuels effort.”* In what ways can we participate in the work that God is doing in us?

9. What does it mean to have affection for others with the affection of Christ Jesus? How has someone's "affection of Christ Jesus" towards you impacted your life?
10. How can we cultivate the kind of love and affection that Paul describes in v. 8?
11. How does growing in love and knowledge contribute to living a life that honors God, as Paul describes in v. 9-11?
12. What role does prayer play in the development of love and discernment?
13. How can we apply Paul's prayer for the Philippians to our own lives and prayers?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

Anything in your life that is left UNTOUCHED by God's grace will be unsafe and unsound. However, if we respond to His invitation of grace, our lives can be transformed! Based on the Holy Spirit's prompting today, *what is a step of obedience that you can take?* Here are a few areas to consider making God's amazing grace the foundation of in your life ...

- Identity
- Relationships
- Work and school
- Adversity and suffering
- Marriage, singleness, and parenting

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note

Resurrection Momentum

- How will the empty tomb impact your life and actions this week? Let's pray that the *power of the resurrection* would continue to fuel us to live sent as we move beyond Easter weekend.
- It's human nature for our hearts to grow cold towards God's grace and goodness to us. Let's pray that the Holy Spirit will help us truly *treasure the goodness of God* with all of our hearts.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE *Optional*

Centering prayer is a practice that leads one into the inner room of the soul and can usher you deeper into prayer, opening yourself up to the transforming power of God's grace more readily!

- [Centering Prayer](#) or rockbridge.cc/centering-prayer-2