

Discussion Guide- Week 1

“Grace fills the Space ”

January 17, 2021



YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED

Church is one of the most powerful forces in human history. For many people it rests at the center of our lives. That doesn't mean though that every church is perfect or that every season of church life will be the same. Over the next five weeks we're going to be discussing church and in particular the values that, at CPC, we believe make us who we are. Don't worry you're going to discover that this series isn't just about church. It's really just about life. So, whatever your church background, we're glad you are here.

Let's Get Started:

1. A new year has begun and what a year it is already. On a scale of 1 to 10 how are you feeling about the year ahead? What is one word you would use to describe this feeling? Share with the group.
2. "Church" isn't really a topic of discussion for most of us. We usually either go or don't go, but we rarely talk about what it should be like to go to church. What word or phrase describes your church experience so far?
3. Today we are specifically talking about Grace. What do you think it means for someone to show Grace to another person?

Let's Get in the Word:

Read **Romans 4:13 & 16.**

- What would you say is the "gist" of these verses?
- Why is Abraham so significant to these early Christians? Why do you think that it was important to Paul (the author of Romans) that they understand that he was saved by Grace and nothing else?

Read **Romans 5: 1-5**.

- This is one of those summary verses where scripture “ties it all together” before moving on to the next topic. This is helpful because it challenges us to see how connected all the different aspects of faith in Jesus work together to reshape our lives. *What are the key ingredients of this passage?*
- What would happen if Grace was removed from this formula?
- What do you make is this curious phrase, *this grace in which we stand?* (ESV)

Let’s Apply it to our lives:

- If Christians are people who are convinced they are saved by Grace why do we still often struggle with humility?
- Are there times when you have experienced grace from another person you can share?
- How do you personally tell when you are in the presence of grace?

As We Move Forward:

The challenge in establishing values in our lives is that they are rather abstract, but coaches, teachers and parents still try all the time. *How would a community of people, like CPC, go about establishing Grace as one of its highest values?*

How do we do this during Covid?