

# CONN<sup>3</sup>CT

## Small Group Bible Study

### Understanding Grace

April 10, 2011

*"Grace means that there is nothing you or I can do that would cause God to love us any more or less than He already does."*

What does the concept of grace mean to you? What are some struggles or questions you have when you consider God's grace?

#### **Grace is a total gift to us from God**

Read Romans 3:24. Why does our disobedience to God demand a penalty? How did Jesus free us from this?

Continue with Romans 11:6. Why is it so tempting to try and earn our right standing with God through good works? What does this verse teach us?

#### **Grace is available through faith**

Read Ephesians 2:8-9. What does "believed" mean in this passage, and who is the object of our belief? (see James 2:19 & Romans 10:9-10)

In Matthew 8 we see a father pleading for Jesus to heal his son. What do we learn about faith in 8:21-27. Where does faith originate according to Hebrews 12:2?

Have you ever boasted about your faith or relationship with God? Why would Paul have found it so necessary to include his warning in verse 9 on boasting? Does it challenge you in any way?

#### **Grace is available to everyone**

Are there sins in your life that you have trouble accepting forgiveness for? Why do some sins leave us feeling unforgivable, even if just in the moment?

What does John 1:12 promise us? Why is this so powerful when considering our struggle with sin?

#### **Grace comes to us through the person of Jesus Christ**

Who is Jesus Christ? Read John 1:14. What promise does He make in John 14:6 and what gives Him the authority to do so?

Read Acts 15:11 & Hebrews 2:14-15. How did Jesus demonstrate this undeserved grace? What was the cost and who paid it?

When you consider your questions or struggles regarding God's grace, what assurance have you gained from the passages we have discussed today? What would it look like for you to walk day by day in the grace of God?

*"The Lord longs to be gracious to you....How blessed are those who long for Him". Isaiah 30:18*

