

Living in God's Grace

A 6-Part Study Guide

By HopeHouse.vi

Introduction to the Series

This study guide explores the life-transforming power of God's grace. Grace is not something we earn—it is a gift freely given. Over six sessions, you'll explore what grace really means, how it works in our lives, and how to live in its freedom. Each part includes a message, reflection questions, and Scripture for deeper study. Whether you're working through this alone or with a group, may this guide help you encounter God's grace more deeply.

Part 1: The Lord Helps the Helpless

The phrase 'God helps those who help themselves' is a popular saying—but it's not biblical. The gospel tells a different story: God helps the helpless. Scripture after scripture shows God reaching into our brokenness, not waiting for us to fix ourselves first.

Matthew 11:28 says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Jesus invites the broken, the burdened, and the weary—not the self-sufficient. Romans 5:6 affirms this: "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly."

This is the beginning of grace: God moves toward us not because we are strong, but because we are not. Our weakness is not a disqualifier—it is where grace works best (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Reflection Questions

1. Have you ever felt like you had to 'fix yourself' before coming to God?
2. How does it change your view of God to know that He helps the helpless?
3. What are some areas of your life where you can stop striving and start resting in His grace?

Scripture for Study

- Matthew 11:28–30
- Romans 5:6–8
- Psalm 34:18
- 2 Corinthians 12:9

Prayer

Lord, thank You that You don't wait for me to have it all together. You help the helpless, and that includes me. Teach me to rest in Your love and trust Your grace to work in my weakness. Amen.

Part 2: Grace is Unmerited Favor

Grace is not earned; it is a gift freely given. Ephesians 2:8–9 reminds us that salvation is by grace, not works. This session explores what unmerited favor means and how it shifts our entire spiritual perspective.

Reflection Questions

1. What does it mean to you that grace is unearned?
2. How does living under grace differ from living under pressure to perform?
3. How can you reflect God's grace to others this week?

Scripture for Study

- Ephesians 2:8–10
- Romans 11:6
- Genesis 15:6
- Titus 3:5

Prayer

Lord, thank You that I don't have to earn Your love. Help me to live in the freedom of Your grace and share it with others. Amen.

Part 3: The Prodigal Son — A Story of Redemption

This session focuses on Luke 15 and the heart of the Father. God's grace welcomes us home no matter how far we've wandered.

Reflection Questions

1. Which character in the parable do you identify with most?
2. What does the father's response teach us about God's grace?
3. Are there people you struggle to extend grace to? Why?

Scripture for Study

- Luke 15:11-32
- Psalm 103:8-13
- Romans 5:8

Prayer

Father, thank You for always welcoming me back with open arms. Teach me to extend that same grace to others. Amen.

Part 4: Grace in the Old Testament

Grace did not begin at the cross—it is seen throughout Scripture. From Noah to David, God extended unmerited favor long before the New Testament.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you see God's grace in the Old Testament?
2. How does seeing grace in the Old Testament deepen your understanding of God's character?
3. What Old Testament story has personally shown you God's mercy?

Scripture for Study

- Genesis 6:8
- Genesis 15:6
- Psalm 51
- Joel 2:13

Prayer

Lord, You have always been gracious. Open my eyes to see Your mercy in all of Scripture and in my own life. Amen.

Part 5: Grace and Works — Finding the Balance

We are saved by grace, not works—but true grace produces fruit. This session explores how grace and works complement, not compete.

Reflection Questions

1. Why do you think it's easy to drift into legalism or license?
2. How does grace change your motivation for doing good?
3. What are some works God may be calling you to walk in?

Scripture for Study

- Ephesians 2:8–10
- James 2:14–17
- Titus 2:11–14

Prayer

Jesus, thank You that I am saved by grace. May that grace produce in me a life full of good fruit. Amen.

Part 6: Living in the Freedom of Grace

Grace leads to freedom—not to sin, but to rest, grow, and love in Christ. This final session unpacks what grace-filled living looks like.

Reflection Questions

1. What does 'freedom in Christ' mean to you?
2. Are there areas where you're still trying to earn God's approval?
3. How can you help others experience the freedom of grace?

Scripture for Study

- Romans 8:1–2
- Galatians 5:13
- Matthew 11:28–30
- Philippians 1:6

Prayer

God, thank You for setting me free. Help me walk in grace daily and extend that freedom to others. Amen.