RECEVE

EXTEND

WYOMING PARK BIBLE FELLOWSHIP FALL 2019 DISCIPLESHIP KIT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Using This Study

Introduction

WEEK 1 GRACE

WEEK 2 **JESUS**

WEEK 3 MERCY

WEEK 4 HARDSHIP

WEEK 5 TRUTH

WEEK 6 FREEDOM

WEEK 7 GENEROSITY

WEEK 8 GIFTS & SERVICE

Additional Resources

USING THIS STUDY

- Before beginning your study, you should pray, asking the Holy Spirit to show you God's will—what God would have you learn through his Word this week.
- Each week you'll be given a number of Bible passages to look up with questions to answer for each passage. You can use a journal, or any tablet or piece of paper to write down your answers to the questions.
- For the purposes of this study, we're using the NIV version of the Bible, but any version should work just fine.
- Each lesson can be broken up into pieces. You might want to do one or two passages per day.
- Please answer each question as honestly and completely as possible, finding the truths from God's Word.
- It's always helpful to share your answers with someone else, whether around your family's kitchen table, or in a small group, or with your best friend over the phone. Sharing not only helps you gain insights from others' perspectives, but also insights into your own answers.
- We'll gather together each Sunday to hear more about what the Bible says about what you've studied this week. Come, prepared to Receive what the Spirit has to offer you, and go into your world to Extend those experiences to others around you.

INTRODUCTION

Grace. Mercy. Truth. Generosity. Gifts. Service. Fruit. These are all words with multiple meanings. Some we understand, some we don't. But each of these words also have special meanings for God's people – for those who

"He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time," (2 Tim. 1:9)

Because we have been saved, because we have been called, because we need to live a holy life, all because of God's grace and purpose through Christ Jesus, we need to take these things that God has extended to us and extend them to those around us. Through this study we will, with the Holy Spirit's help, see what God says in His word about these words – Grace, Mercy, Truth, Generosity, Gifts, Service, Fruit. And then we will also see how God desires us to extend His Grace, His Mercy, His Truth, His Generosity, His Gifts, His Service and His Fruit to those around us. We have the benefit of Godly Pastors who will speak on these truths, and we have the benefit of God's Word – the Bible. This is the ultimate source of all Truth. The author Carolyn James puts it this way:

"In the Bible, God opens up to tell his own story, but not simply to satisfy our curiosity or fill our heads with facts. His intent is to draw us closer to himself, to cultivate his relationship with us, and to tell us the truth about himself, ourselves, and our world. He tells a war story too-a rescue operation where he fights to redeem, reclaim, and rebuild his family.

But God has no taste for a one-sided relationship where he does all the work. Just as we long for those we love to take a deep interest in us, so God longs for us to hunger to know him and to make time to know him better. So he has given us the Bible, a book that literally begs to be studied, where we will get to know him best. Here we discover his passion for us, the lengths he will go to secure our good. Through stories of ancient people, he gives picture after picture of how he parents his children. Honest stories, including upbeat episodes where his people's faith was strong and their victories great, are placed alongside dark chapters where they were baffled, disappointed, and even angry with him. His ancient people wrestled to understand and trust him, just as we do today. Their stories show, again and again, that he is good. He knows what he is doing and is worthy of our trust.

To unearth the message of the Bible, we must always read in search of God. The Bible springs to life when we are looking for him. Well-worn passages we thought we had mastered yield fresh and deeper meaning when we probe in search of him. One woman, awestruck by what she was discovering, remarked, 'God is a lot bigger than I thought.'"

(taken from "Why God Gave Us the Bible" by Carolyn Curtis James)

It is our hope, our prayer, our expectation that God will help you

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)

RECEIVE GRACE GRACE

GRACE

Receive Grace, Extend Grace

In the Bible (NIV translation), the word Grace, in its various forms is mentioned 180 times. This would lead us to believe that Grace is an important concept. But do we really know what it means? It's not a word that we use frequently in our everyday conversations. I don't tell someone "because of the grace you extended to me, I'm going to do this for you". Or "I am so full of grace today that I forgive you what you did to me." It's just not a word that comes up. But because of its importance in the Bible, we will look at just a few verses that tell us more about what God thinks about grace, and the how we can extend that grace to others.

RECEIVING GOD'S GRACE

Read Ephesians 2:8-9

- What do you learn about what grace is in these verses?
- How do you receive grace?
- Why do you think God gives grace if you don't deserve it?

Read Romans 3:20-24

- What does works do for you?
- How is grace related to works?
- What is the relationship between grace and Jesus?

EXTENDING GOD'S GRACE

Read Titus 2:11-14

- What does grace bring you?
- What should you do with this knowledge?
- How can you do this?

Read Colossians 4:5-6

- What do you learn about extending grace in this passage?
- What will happen if you follow these instructions?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:8

- Who takes care of the grace in you?
- Why does God do this?
- How might this help you in extending God's grace to others?

MORE TO PONDER

One way to remember what Grace is, is through the acronym

God's Riches At Christ's Expense

God loves you so much that he sent Jesus to this earth as a human to be sacrificed on the cross for your sins. You didn't earn His grace. You didn't even ask for His grace. He doesn't ask you to do anything in return for receiving His grace. But, because of your gratefulness and love for God, you are to take that grace that you have received and extend it to those around you. It's not always easy to show grace to others. Sometimes it's out-right hard! But God does not expect you to go it alone. He's there, through the Holy Spirit, to guide you, protect you, and help you. If you have not received God's grace yet, talk to someone that you know who is a follower of Christ. Ask them to help you give your life to Jesus as well. God's grace is right there – waiting for you to accept it. Take it, use it, and watch what the Holy Spirit will do through you. You won't regret it. It's an amazing journey.

(Additional resources to help you with your journey are listed at the back of this book)

RECEIVE JESUS PRODUCE

JESUS

Receive Jesus, Bear Jesus Fruit

Jesus. What does that name mean to you? What should it mean to you? Jesus is much more than just a historical figure who did good things over two thousand years ago. Sure, he did lots of miracles and healings, but he also taught about how to have a loving, eternal relationship with God through knowing Jesus. At the heart of the Gospel is the story of Jesus. In fact, the entire Bible is God's story of redemption for His people through the saving sacrifice of His son, Jesus. Because of God's *Grace*, we can have that relationship with Him through Jesus. This week we will look at what that means for us, and for others that we come in contact with every day.

RECEIVING JESUS

Read Psalm 51:4-5 and Romans 6:23

- What do you learn about sin here?
- About your part in sin?
- What happens if we continue in our sin?
- What did God provide for us instead?

Read Acts 16:30-34

Paul and Silas were in prison here. While praying, there was a violent earthquake, which opened their prison door. Instead of escaping, they stayed and saved the guards from killing themselves. (summary of verses 22-29)

- What did the guards want to know?
- What was Paul's answer?
- How did the guards respond?
- How would you respond in a similar situation? Why?

Read Romans 10:9-10

- What do you learn here about salvation?
- What is the relationship your heart and your mouth?

BEARING FRUIT

Read John 15:9-17

- What does Jesus tell us about what you are to do now that you have given your life over to Him?
- Why are you to do this?

Read Galatians 5:16 & 22-26

- What do you discover about the Holy Spirit in these verses?
- What should you do when you accept Jesus and thus the Holy Spirit?
- Out of this list of Fruit of the Spirit which one(s) do you find especially hard to practice?
- What do you think you can do to help yourself do better?

MORE TO PONDER

One of the most quoted verses in the entire Bible is John 3:16. Expanding this to include verses 17&18 is says this:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

God loves you. He loves you so much that he sacrificed Jesus in your place. Now, if you put your faith, your trust, your belief in Jesus you will spend eternity with him. Out of gratitude for what Jesus did for you, you are now to go out into the world and produce good fruit to those around you. What a better way to thank Jesus than to give that life-sustaining fruit to someone else! Because, although Jesus says "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one come to the Father except through me." (John 14:6), we also know that God "wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:4).

How exciting to know that you are a part of God's forever family! How will you help others join that family as well?

RECEIVE MERCY EXTEND MERCY



The terms Grace and Mercy are often confused in the Christian community. As we saw earlier, Grace is what God gives us even though we don't deserve it. The Biblical definition of Mercy denotes more than just feelings or emotions. It's a quality of God that encompasses compassion and kindness. In other words, God, because of his enduring compassion and kindness (*mercy*), loves you so much that he sent Jesus to die in your place because of your sins so that you can spend eternity with Him (*grace*).

And now, you, in turn, are to show mercy to those around you. Let's look at some Bible passages that explain the how's, what's and why's of mercy.

RECEIVING MERCY

Read Micah 7:18 & 19

- What characteristics of God are listed in this passage?
- What does this mean to you to know that God delights to show you mercy?

Read Ephesians 2:4-7

- What does this passage tell you about God's character?
- About your character?
- What did God do for you, even though you didn't deserve it?

Read Hebrews 4:14-16

- Why are you able to receive mercy from God, according to this passage?
- What else will you receive besides mercy when you approach God with confidence?
- How might knowing this help you in your situations today?

EXTENDING MERCY

Read Micah 6:8

- What does God want you to do?
- How might knowing this change your way of thinking and actions in the future? Give some examples.

Read Luke 6:36

- What does Jesus command you to do?
- Why?

Now Read Luke 6:27-35

- How do these verses expand your understanding of what it means to extend mercy?
- Have you ever experienced a time when someone extended mercy to you? Or have you every needed to extend mercy to someone else? Did either of these examples fit with Jesus' command? Why or why not.

MORE TO PONDER

The concept of mercy is weaved throughout the Old and New Testaments. If not for God's mercy, you would not be where you are today. If not for God's mercy the world would not exist as it does today. Many times in the Old Testament God is angry or disgusted with His people, but each time His merciful characteristic wins out and He saves His people. This week, look up the following passages on Mercy. If you want an even more in-depth study, look in your Bible's concordance for the word Mercy or Merciful and look up those passages as well. There are over 150 mentions of those two words in the NIV alone!

1 Timothy 1:12-17 James 2:12-13

James 5:11 Matthew 5:7

1 Peter 2:10 Matthew 9:12-13

1 Peter 1:3-5 2 Samuel 24:14

Jeremiah 3:12 Daniel 9:9

RECEIVE

EXTEND GRACE

HARDSHIP

Receive Hardship, Extend Grace

Have you ever had 'one of those days'? You know, the day when your boss decides to take out his frustrations on you. The day when your mechanic overcharges you for a simple repair job. The day when your kids just will. not. listen. The day when your neighbor stops you as soon as you get home to complain about how your weeds are encroaching on his lawn. And why don't you do a better job of mowing more frequently? The day you let down your defenses and do exactly what you said you'd never do again. Yes, one of those days. What do you do when it seems like all you are receiving from everyone and everything around you is so hard to handle?

So far, this study has focused on giving what you are given. You receive God's grace and mercy – Jesus himself, so you extend grace and mercy. You even extend Jesus to those around you. However, you live in a fallen world that throws a lot of dirt, hurt, and hardships your way. Without Jesus you'll be tempted to "return evil for evil" and "hurt for hurt". In those moments you need the grace and mercy of God to be such a necessary and integral part of your identity that you respond with the character, the grace, the mercy of Jesus. Not with what the world around you would expect.

How you react when hardships are thrown you way is addressed in the Bible. Let's look at some of those verses.

RECEIVING (OVERCOMING) HARDSHIP

Read 1 Peter 4:12-16

- What do you learn about suffering in these verses? Is it real?
- How should you respond when you are suffering?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13

- According to this verse, where do your temptations come from?
- How can you be confident that you can get through this trial?

Read Ephesians 6:12-16

- Who (or what) are you struggling with while in this world?
- How can you get through this struggle?

EXTENDING GRACE

Read 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

What do these verses tell you about your problems?

Read Matthew 5:43-48

- How are you to treat your enemies (or those who 'get under your skin', etc.), according to Jesus?
- What do you find most difficult about the examples Jesus gives here?
- How do you think you can be "perfect" as Jesus states in verse 48?
- (read Psalm 18 and Hebrews 10:14 to help with this)

Read Romans 8:28, 31, & 35-39

- What do these verses tell you about how you should view your struggles?
- What comfort can you find while going through a tough period in your life?

MORE TO PONDER

Trials. Struggles. Temptations. Battles. Pain. Conflict. Life. In this world we know (and the Bible teaches us) that we will have "stuff" happen to us and around us. Life isn't always easy. Sometimes it seems like it's never easy. But if we hold on to the truth of Scriptures, the promises that God has made to us, we know that in the end being with God in glory will make everything here on earth pale and fade away. Getting though things may not be easy, but with God's help you can do it! That's a promise from Him! Jesus says

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Your battle, trial, struggle, temptation, pain, conflict, life has already been won! Take heart! And remember that

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." James 1:12-13

RECEIVE TOLLAND



TRUTH

Receive Truth, Extend Truth

"I cannot tell a lie". "You can't handle the truth!" "Truth is stranger than fiction". There are many sayings out there about what truth is, or isn't. It can be very easy to get caught up in what everyone thinks is "truth". Even to the point that there is no truth, only what you believe to be real is real. Do you ever feel like that? Do you ever feel like no matter what happens, you'll never be able to distinguish the truth from fiction – from what your mind conceives as the truth? The Bible is quite clear on what is "truth" and what is "lies". We saw in the last lesson that Satan is a master at lies. Truth is an aspect of God's grace. It is a gift from God given for our good. This week we'll look at what God tells us about His truth, and how we can extend that truth to others.

RECEIVING TRUTH

Read John 14:6

- What does Jesus call himself here?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the Truth?
- How does knowing this affect your desire to know the Truth?

Read John 8:31-38

- How can you know the truth, according to Jesus?
- What will that knowledge do for (to) you?
- Knowing this, how should that impact your day to day living?

Read John 8:42-47 & 1 John 4:4-6

- What do you learn about the devil (Satan) in John 8?
- Knowing this, how can you distinguish Truth from lies, according to 1 John 4?

Read John 16:12-14

- What does Jesus promise his followers here?
- How should this encourage you?

EXTENDING TRUTH

Read 1 John 1:5-10

- How are you to live your life, according to this passage?
- What does it mean if you are not living your life in this manner?
- How (or why), do you think claiming to be without sin makes Jesus out to be a liar?

Read Philippians 4:8-9

- What do you learn about how you are to live in this passage?
- What will happen if you live this way?
- Does this encourage or intimidate you?

Read Ephesians 4:20-25

- How are you to live, according to this passage?
- How is this different than how you used to live?
- What is something that you can do to practice living in the ways of the Truth?

MORE TO PONDER

The Bible has much to say about truth and un-truth. As you ponder what you've read and learned this week, take a few moments to thank God for being the Truth. Knowing the source of all Truth makes living in this fallen world a little easier – if you let the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Truth) guide you. The following verses might help you to keep you focus on the Truth and off the deceiver of all lies.

Exodus 20:16	Psalm 15:2-3	Psalm 25:5	Psalm 34:13
Proverbs 12:22	Proverbs 30:5	John 1:14	John 1:17
John 8:44	John 14:6	John 16:12-14	Romans 1:24-25
1 Corinthians 13:4-6	Ephesians 6:14	Colossians 1:5-6	1 Timothy 3:15
2 Timothy 2:15	Hebrews 6:18	James 1:18	1 John 3:18

RECEIVE TREEDOM EXTEND TREEDOM



Receive Freedom, Extend Freedom

Freedom. A concept that almost everyone, everywhere can agree on that it is a good thing. Exactly what that freedom is or what it means, might not be so clear. Some think freedom means doing whatever you want, whenever you want, however you want, with little or no regard for others. Others think it's much more constrictive. You're free to do this – but not that. All parents of teenagers have to grapple with how much freedom to give their teens and how fast. As adults we need to learn how to use our new found freedom in a way that is best for us and others. In this lesson we will be looking at how we can receive true freedom through our Savior Christ Jesus, and how can then go and extend that freedom to those that we encounter each and every day.

RECEIVING FREEDOM

Read John 8:31-36

- Keeping in mind what you learned about "Truth" in Lesson 5, what new concept about the relationship between "Truth" and "Freedom" do you see in these verses?
- What does Jesus set you free from?
- Because Jesus set you free, what is your status in His family?

Read Galatians 5:1 & 13-14

- What are you now to do because Jesus set you free?
- How can sin become a yoke (or burden) of slavery? (think back to what you learned in John 8)
- What might be some practical ways love can be a symbol of your freedom in Christ?

EXTENDING FREEDOM

Read Romans 14:8-13

- What does Paul say about how you are to treat others? Why?
- Give an example of what might be a stumbling block for your brother or sister in Christ today.
- How can you keep from putting this stumbling block or obstacle in your brother or sister's way?

Read James 4:11-12

- What are you commanded to do (or not do) in these verses?
- How might judging your neighbor counter the fact that you are free in Christ?
- Who are you to leave the judging to?

Read Titus 3:1-8

- List the ways Titus says you were enslaved (i.e. not free) before Christ set you free.
- How, and Why, has Jesus saved you (i.e. set you free)?
- What should be your response to being free?

MORE TO PONDER

Being free is a wonderful, exciting concept. Especially being free from the penalty of our sins! We can thank God for His generous gift of His Son, Jesus, for providing our freedom for us through his death and resurrection. But Jesus did not set us free to do whatever we *want*, he sets us free to do what we *ought* to do! And what we ought to do is follow His example. Love one another. It's that simple and yet that difficult, isn't it. Pray for God's wisdom. God's guidance. God's understanding. Pray to see others as God sees them. Then you will be able to use your wonderful freedom in the way God intended you to use it. In love.

RECEIVE GENEROSITY GENEROSITY

GENEROSITY

Receive Generosity, Extend Generosity

We've all heard the stories in the news of some billionaire paying off a bunch of student's college debt. Or maybe you've benefited from of a generous donation – something you didn't see coming. Have you ever had the opportunity to "pay-it-forward" in the drive-thru line at Starbucks? All of these incidences are things we would consider generosity. But have you ever stopped to consider that God is a generous God? Or that God wants you to extend His generosity to those around you? This week we'll look at some Bible verses that show how God is generous and what He expects you to do with His generosity.

RECEIVING GENEROSITY

Read Matthew 7:7-12

- What does Jesus tell you to do, in verse 7?
- In verse 8, what do you learn about what will happen if you do these things?
- What do you learn about God's generosity in verses 9-11?
- What should be your response to God's generosity, according to verse 12?

Read Romans 8:31-32

- The "things" mentioned in verse 31 is the fact that God is working in your life for your good (we've seen this previously when we looked at verse 28 in lesson #4).
- What is the most generous thing God has given to you, according to these verses?
- What does this tell you about God's character?

Read 1 John 5:13-15

- What can you be confident of, according to these verses?
- How should this affect the way you approach God?
- Is it hard, or easy, to live by these verses? Why or why not?

EXTENDING GENEROSITY

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

- How are you to use what God has generously given you, according to this passage?
- List some things that will happen to you if you are generous with what God has given you.
- What is the ultimate result of being generous, according to verse 11-13?
- What gift do you think is being referred to in verse 15? Why?

Read Matthew 6:1-4

- How do the hypocrites give to the needy, according to this passage?
- How should you give to the needy?
- Why should you give in this way?

Read Mark 12:41-44 & 2 Corinthians 8:12

- According to these verses, what's more important than the amount that you are generous with?
- Does this encourage you to be more generous? Why or why not?

MORE TO PONDER

God, the creator of all things, gives generously to His children everything that they need. He even gave the ultimate gift of His Son, Jesus! As the result of God's grace, mercy, and generosity, you are able to have the full, abundant, perfect life that God desires for you. Does that mean that your life will always be free from conflict or pain? Of course not – you still live in a fallen world. But it does mean that whatever you're going through, whatever you need to face, God is there with you, helping you through it, and showing you how you can use His generosity in your life, your current situation, to spread that generosity – God's generosity – to others. Take time to look up some of the following verses about God's generosity to you and to others.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18; 16:17 Psalm 24:1; 41:1; 112:5, 9

Proverbs 3:27; 10:4; 11:4,24; 14:31; 19:17; 21:13; 22:4,9; 28:27

Matthew 6:21, 33; 10:8 Luke 6:38; 12:7

John 10:10 2 Corinthians 8:12

Galatians 6:2 Philippians 4:19

Hebrews 13:16 James 1:17

1 Timothy 6:17-19 1 John 3:16-18

RECEIVE GIFTS EXTEND SERVICE

GIFTS

Receive Gifts, Extend Service

Remember when you were a child and it was Christmas morning? Or your birthday? What was it that you most looked forward to? If you're like most of us, although the cake was delicious, it was getting gifts that made you most excited. But, that gift was not fun at all if you weren't able to open it. In fact, it was usually very difficult to leave that pretty package alone until finally given permission to open it. You probably went back and forth between the gift and your parent, asking "is it time to open presents yet?" Sometimes the anticipation was even greater than the actual gift – especially if that gift turned out to be new clothes! But, given that toy you'd been asking for, you couldn't wait to try it out, sometimes even ignoring the rest of the gifts just to concentrate on that one special one.

God gives you one or more of those can't-wait-to-open-and-use gifts. In his word, the Bible, these gifts are referred to as "Spiritual Gifts". In this lesson you'll look at what those gifts might be, and how to use them to impact others in your life.

RECEIVING GIFTS

Read Psalm 139:13-14 & Ephesian 2:10

- What does the Psalmist acknowledge about God and your relationship to God?
- How does this relate to what Paul says about you in Ephesians?
- What does this revelation tell you about you? About how God sees you?

Read the Romans 12:6-8 & 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

- List the various gifts from these passages
- What do some of these gifts look like in the church?

EXTENDING SERVICE

Read Romans 12:1-5 & 9-21

- What do you learn from these verses about the relationship between your gifts, as listed in verses 6-8 from the previous question, and how you should serve (ie: treat) others?
- Give a few practical suggestions about how you can use those gifts to serve others in the ways listed here.

Read 1 Peter 4:8-11; Colossians 3:23-24

- What do these verses tell you about how you should serve others? About why?
- What do you find to be the most important thing to remember when serving others?

MORE TO PONDER

Throughout this study you've looked at many Bible passages about what God has done for you, and what you should do with what He's done for you. God's Word tells us over and over again about His great love, His great mercy, His great compassion for you – His child. Now as you go about your day-to-day activities, remember to thank Him for all that He's done. Thank Him for choosing you. Thank Him for loving you. Thank Him for thinking so highly of you that He's given you the amazing responsibility of showing His Grace, His Son Jesus, His Mercy, His Love in times of Hardship, His Truth, His Freedom, His Generosity, and His Gifts to those you come in contact with every day. As you go, remember these words from Colossians 3:

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:16-17)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Bible Resources

The NIV Exhaustive Concordance

Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary

The Bible, NIV Version

Online Resources

www.biblegateway.com

www.churchgrowth.org

www.crosswalk.com

www.biblestudy.crosswalk.com

www.logos.com

www.christianbook.com

www.familychristian.com

www.focusonthefamily.com

www.blueletterbible.org

www.biblehub.com

www.biblia.com

Spiritual Gifts Test

www.spiritualgiftstest.com