

# Grace Group Discussion Guide

For the week of March 3 - 9, 2019

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## Main Thought and Passages:

We were made by God to grow and thrive through intimate relationships where we are known fully by others and accepted unconditionally. At the beginning Adam and Eve were completely "naked and were not ashamed." This speaks of being fully known, fully loved, and accepted. The book of Acts records how the Church demonstrated this. They shared their lives intimately with one another and experienced great power, blessings, and many people coming to faith. In order to experience the transformative power of God through others, we need to:

- **Recognize that knowing one another is built on unconditional acceptance.**

Jesus demonstrated this when He accepted and restored Peter fully after Peter publicly denied knowing Him. As a result of unconditional acceptance, Peter became a bold and passionate follower of Christ.

- **Connect to God's grace and power through sharing our struggles with others.**

*"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."* (James 5:14-16 NIV)

*"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body."* (Ephesians 4:25 NIV)

- **Remember that God pursues us because He craves connection with us.**

*"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:8 NIV)

## Reflection:

- What stands out to you from the main thought and passages above?
- Why do you think God has chosen to work in us through being transparent with others? What hinders you from doing so?

## Application:

- What practical step can you take to be more transparent with others?

## Prayer:

- Pray for one another's prayer requests.
- Pray for unreached people.