

In closing...

"The Lord has promised good to me. His word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures." These inspiring words were written in the 1700's; yet, they are as fresh as if they were written today. If you don't know the words to "Amazing Grace" by memory, I challenge you to learn them. They can give hope and peace any time you sing or say them. It's comforting to know that God has given us grace to live by and will provide us grace to die by.

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—JUNE 2013

KNOW

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THE WAVES were exploding over the ship and the winds were so strong that it made steering almost impossible. Thunder and lightning provided fireworks that were terrifying. The slaves below deck were afraid for their lives. Violence of nature was everywhere. Sailors were praying and screaming all at the same time. The captain was trying his best to guide the ship and everyone on board to safety but it seemed that the ship was destined to sink. Then, the sea captain, who had given up on any religious convictions, cried, "Lord, have mercy upon us." Later in his cabin, while reflecting and writing in his journal, he began to believe that God had addressed him through the storm. He knew that grace had begun to work for him.

"Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear, The hour I first believed." John Newton wrote those words to the second stanza of "Amazing Grace" as a believer, probably 20 to 25 years after that horrific storm. In the third stanza, he also wrote, *"Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home."* From infidel slave trader to minister of the gospel, John Newton's life was quite unique. He had experienced grace first hand.

Your life may or may not involve such drastic events. Whatever your situation, like John Newton, are you secure in your faith? Do you know God's "Amazing Grace"? These answers need to be firmly planted in your heart. Life is difficult. We all experience storms of one kind or another along life's journey. It's the way in which we weather those heart-wrenching trials that defines us.

The study for this month should help us answer questions of doubt concerning the part grace plays in salvation, failure, betrayal, and unfamiliar setting and show us how the Bible displays grace in the pages of every book. When we understand the truth of the Word, we can understand the beauty of grace. There is so much to know, show, and grow through this study. You'll be glad you put forth the effort.

KNOW

Salvation Through Grace

HANDWRITING ON THE HEART: “But we believe that through the grace of the LORD Jesus Christ we shall be saved ...” (Acts 15:11).

HANDPRINT: Grace came to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- ✚ Write the Handwriting on the Heart verse on a 3x5 card. Memorize this verse.
- ✚ Go over the questions and answers in *Treasure*, p. 13.
- ✚ Who introduced Peter to Jesus? (*Andrew, Peter’s brother—John 1:40-42a.*)
- ✚ What was Andrew and Peter’s occupation? (*Fisherman—Matthew 4:18.*)
- ✚ What did Jesus tell Peter and Andrew in Matthew 4:19? (*“I will make you fishers of men.”*)
- ✚ What is the action word in Matthew 4:20, 22 that we should also obey? (*Followed*)
- ✚ Do you feel that you “follow” Christ?
- ✚ Look at a few things about Peter that made him unique. Peter was:
 - (1) Naturally impulsive—*Matthew 17:4; John 21:7.*
 - (2) Tender hearted and affectionate—*Matthew 26:75; John 21:15.*
 - (3) Full of strange contradictions—*John 13:8-9, 18:10.*
 - (4) Timid and cowardly at times—*Matthew 26:69-72.*
 - (5) Filled with spiritual insight—*John 6:68.*
 - (6) Immovable—*Acts 4:19-20, 5:28-29.*
- ✚ How did Peter know that his salvation was real? (*Peter was empowered by the Holy Spirit—Acts 2:14; 4:33.*)
- ✚ How is anyone saved? (*By grace—Titus 2:11, 3:7; Romans 3:24; 5:15; Acts 15:11.*)
- ✚ So then how does faith enter in? (*One has to grow in faith—1 Peter 2:2; Ephesians 4:13; 1 Timothy 1:14*)
- ✚ Does your faith ever waver? (*See Ephesians 4:14.*)
- ✚ What is the ultimate path to pursue? (*To know grace through salvation—Ephesians 3:17-19.*)
- ✚ Share original acrostics (see TOUCHPOINT, p.13 in *Treasure*.)
- ✚ Dismiss in prayer. Thank God for His amazing grace in your life.

KNOW

Grace After Failure and Betrayal

HANDWRITING ON THE HEART: “... I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand” (1 Peter 5:12).

HANDPRINT: God extends forgiveness and grace for living as His children.

- ✚ Write the Handwriting on the Heart verse in your journal. Find other “grace” verses and write them there as well..
- ✚ Go over all of the interactives on p.15 of *Treasure*.
- ✚ Why do you think Peter didn’t acknowledge knowing Jesus after His arrest?
- ✚ What would have happened at that time if Peter had spoken up and said he was a disciple? (*He would probably have been killed along with Jesus.*)
- ✚ What made Peter bend as a reed instead of standing as the rock when Jesus was captured? (*The Thompson Chain Bible lists the following as reasons: 1. **Conceit**—Matthew 26:33. 2. **Ease**—Matthew 26:40. 3. **Following afar off**—Matthew 26:58. 4. **Open denial**—John 18:25. 5. **Blasphemy**—Mark 14:70-71.*)
- ✚ Look again at these reasons for Peter’s fall. Have you ever been guilty of any of them? (*Don’t answer out loud.*)
- ✚ Would it not be easy to transgress in any of these ways?
- ✚ Did any of these conditions keep Peter from experiencing God’s grace? (*No—Matthew 16:18.*)
- ✚ What does Romans 3:23 tell us? (*We’ve all sinned or failed God in some way.*)
- ✚ What avenue do we take when we sin? (*Prayer of forgiveness—Colossians 1:14.*)
- ✚ Why can we be forgiven? (*Because of Jesus’ blood—Ephesians 1:7.*)
- ✚ After the Resurrection, how do you suppose Peter felt remembering the incidents of only three days earlier? (He wondered what would happen—Luke 24:12.)
- ✚ How did Jesus extend grace to Peter? (*He wanted to make sure Peter knew He was alive—Mark 16:6-7.*)
- ✚ After the Resurrection, Peter suffered persecution, imprisonment and beatings—all of which made him become what Jesus had said he would be. What was that? (*A rock—John 1:42.*)
- ✚ Dismiss in prayer. Ask God to cover you with His grace every day.

KNOW

Grace in Unfamiliar Settings

HANDWRITING ON THE HEART: “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy..” (1 Peter 2:9-10).

HANDPRINT: No matter where life takes us, we can experience His grace as we, the people of God, obediently follow and seek to glorify Him.

- ✚ Write the Handwriting on the Heart verse in your journal. Try to memorize it.
- ✚ Go over p. 17 in *Treasure* together, reading the Scriptures, relating the settings and answering the questions.
- ✚ What does it mean to be a chosen generation? (*Set apart, a holy people—Deuteronomy 7:6; Psalm 100:3; Ephesians 1:4*)
- ✚ Do you like knowing that God chose you?
- ✚ Why did Herod Agrippa I (not Herod the Great) want to persecute the church and the Apostles? (*To stamp out Christianity—Acts 12:1.*)
- ✚ What had this Herod done to James, the brother of John according to Acts 12:2? (*Herod had James killed.*)
- ✚ Then what did he do with Peter? (*Put him in prison—Acts 12:4.*)
- ✚ How did God take care of this situation? (*By sending angels to deliver him out of prison—Acts 12:6-11.*)
- ✚ What were the church people doing while Peter was imprisoned? (*Praying without ceasing—Acts 12:5*)
- ✚ Do you see grace at work in this particular situation? How? (*1. Peter was delivered from prison; 2. A locked gate had someone to open it; 3. Friends welcomed him in; 4. Prayers were answered; 5. He was able to escape Herod's wrath—Acts 12:13-19.*)
- ✚ What was the result of all this, according to Acts 12:24? (*The word of God grew and multiplied.*)
- ✚ Dismiss in prayer. Thank God for the grace He bestows in your life, and ask Him to let you recognize it.

KNOW

Grace Through the Eternal Word

HANDWRITING ON THE HEART: “But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you” (1 Peter 1:25).

HANDPRINT: God's Word, inspired and eternal, is the channel through which we know, receive and experience grace.

- ✚ Write the Handwriting on the Heart verse in your journal.
- ✚ Go over the questions on p. 19 in *Treasure*. Discuss your answers.
- ✚ Name some other incidents in the Bible that might be unbelievable for some. (*1. Virgin Birth—Luke 1:30-31. 2. Story of Jonah—Jonah 1:17, 2:10. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—Daniel 3:23-25. Burning Bush—Acts 7:30-31, Exodus 3:2-5.*)
- ✚ What is the real truth of these incidents? (*Luke 1:37; 1 Peter 1:25*)
- ✚ Peter had lived with the Word (*John 1:14, 17*). Did he always believe or understand?
- ✚ When did Peter start championing the grace of God? (*Before the Council of Jews—Acts 4:8, 12-20*)
- ✚ Peter's ministry became so effective that he even performed miracles. Read the verses and name the miracle. (*Acts 3:6. 7—Lame Man healed. Acts 5:15—Sick healed. Acts 9:36, 40—Dorcus brought back to life.*)
- ✚ Why did Christ empower Peter to do miracles? (*So Jesus would be known—Acts 3:12-16.*)
- ✚ How are we to grow through the Word of God? (*“In the grace and knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”—2 Peter 3:18.*)
- ✚ What does grace give us? (*Peace and hope—Romans 5:1-2*)
- ✚ What event did Peter witness that caused him to, once again, act impulsively? (*Transfiguration—Matthew 17:1-9*)
- ✚ What did he ask? (*“Wilt thou let us build three tabernacles, one for thee, one for Moses, and one for Elias?”—Matthew 17:4*)
- ✚ How was this the wrong question to ask? (*We only need to worship Jesus and none other.*)
- ✚ Later on in life, how did witnessing the Transfiguration enable Peter to preach? (*With power and knowledge of God—2 Peter 1:16-18*)
- ✚ How long does the Word last? (*Forever—1 Peter 1:25.*)
- ✚ Dismiss in prayer. Thank God for His Word and the grace spread throughout the pages of the Bible.