

JULY 2013 FACILITATORS GUIDE

SHOW

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Beginning thoughts...

Imagine Peter's wife running up to her husband, "Where have you been? Please get your friend Jesus. Mother is desperately ill!"

Peter may have responded, "Are you sure she needs Him? He's been preaching and healing people all day. I know He's really tired."

Jesus didn't let tiredness stop Him from entering, taking Peter's mother-in-law by the hand and healing her. The fever left her immediately. Feeling so well, she got up and probably fixed a big meal for those present.

Once, again, grace presented itself by the touch of the Master's Hand. Over and over in the Bible we see this occurring. Where there were needs, Jesus proved He could meet them. Everything Jesus did is not recorded in the pages of Scripture. John 21:25 tells us "that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written." Yet, each and every time, He provided grace sufficient for the need.

I can think of numerous times when Jesus has shown grace to me. One of these was in the year 2000. Cancer appeared in my body. Throughout the doctor visits, biopsy, surgery, reconstruction, more surgeries and recovery, I felt the hand of God as I had never felt it. He provided me courage, hope, and peace necessary to face each day without succumbing to depression and melancholy. (It's easier to give in to these when you're so terribly weak and sore and can't do anything. Just knowing Jesus was with me, however, gave me what I needed to get through each day. His grace shown to me was indeed sufficient.



SHOW

Grace to Ourselves

HANDWRITING ON THE HEART: “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you” (1 Peter 5:10).

HANDPRINT: The grace we offer others, we often find difficult to extend to ourselves. Yet, the God of all grace seeks our restoration and calls us to follow Him.

👉 Use a journal to record the Handwriting on the Heart verses in the study. Write 1 Peter 5:10 in your journal.

👉 Go over the questions and answers on p. 27 of *Treasure*, together.

👉 Should any of the disciples have been surprised to see Jesus at this moment described in John 2:3-6? Why? (*It was the third time He had appeared to them—John 21:14.*)

👉 How would you have felt to have been at their fish fry? (*John 21:10-12*)

👉 Why did Jesus ask Peter three times, “Lovest thou me”? (*John 21:17*)

👉 Remember that three was a significant number for Peter. Where else did “three times” mark something for Peter? (*Luke 22:61*)

👉 Did Jesus’ three-time questioning of Peter concerning his love indicate that Jesus felt angry or upset with him? (*No, it was simply a test so that Peter would recognize God’s grace shown to him.*)

👉 Would we pass Jesus’ love test?

👉 Besides the one in this passage, what other conditions does Jesus ask of us? (1) *True discipleship—John 13:35*; (2) *Love of the brothers—1 John 3:14*; (3) *Genuine service—John 21:16*; and (4) *Speech with actions—1 Corinthians 13:1*.

👉 How do you think that Jesus felt when Peter declared his love at this moment?

👉 How did Jesus’ prediction of Peter’s persecution affect him? (*Peter accepted it—John 21:18-19.*)

👉 Read 1 Peter 1:7, 13, 23-25. Peter got it! Do you?

👉 Sing or read the words to “Grace Greater than our Sin,” p. 232 in *REJOICE! The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book*.

👉 **Dismiss in prayer.** Ask God to give you wisdom to forgive yourself and the grace to move forward in faith.




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Grace Within our Families


HANDWRITING ON THE HEART: *“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered” (1 Peter 3:7).*


HANDPRINT: Homes can be places of grace as we accept God's design for the family, honor and respect one another and live in obedience to His Word.


 Write the Handwriting on the Heart in your journal. Using a Bible concordance, look up other Scriptures that give husbands instructions concerning their wives. Write down the references.


 Which of these Scriptures is your favorite? (*Mine is Ephesians 5:25.*)


 Now, look up the duties of the wives and record these. Which of these is your favorite?


 Together, go over the questions and answers on p. 29 in *Treasure*.


 Why is grace necessary in a family? (1) *Works in patience*—Romans 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 6:6; 8:7. (2) *Riches of grace*—Ephesians 1:7; (3) *Source of power*—2 Timothy 2:1; (4) *Meets our needs*—Philippians 4:19.)

 Why is the wife mentioned as a “weaker vessel” in our key verse?


 Are women to be walked on because they are women? (*Definitely not! God instructs a husband to give honor to his wife; treating her as his own body—Ephesians 5:28.*)

 Do we extend the meek, quiet spirit of subjection and compassion to our families?

 How do we do that? (1) *By showing love*—Song of Solomon-8:7; (2) *Being patient*—Hebrews 10:36; (3) *Providing for our families*—Luke 6:38; (3) *Communicating*—1 John 1:7; (4) *Teaching*—Proverbs 22:6; (5) *Protecting*—Psalm 91:4; (6) *Prayer*—John 16:24.)

 Read Proverbs 31:10-12, 26-28, 30. Do these verses mention the word “grace”? Yet, what do these verses imply? (*Grace is bestowed on a virtuous woman.*)

 Would you rather have an unhappy home with everyone yelling, fussing and bickering or a peaceful, happy, comfortable home with God at the center?

 What would Joshua say? (*“but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”—Joshua 24:15, the last phrase.*)

 **Dismiss in prayer.** Thank God for His grace over your home and ask Him to continue to bless it.















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Grace to Other Believers

HANDWRITING ON THE HEART: *“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10).*

HANDPRINT: Showing grace among believers involves love, humility, acceptance, hospitality, genuineness, and blessing others.

-  Write the Handwriting on the Heart verse in your journal.
-  Go over the questions and answers on p.31 in *Treasure*.
-  Reflect on the “Relationship with Believers” and share a time when you had to use one of them either in your church or with someone.
-  Why should we have unity in our churches? (1) *Promotes harmony among leaders—Isaiah 52:8; (2) Removes separation—Ephesians 2:14; (3) Contrition unifies believers—Psalm 34:18, Jeremiah 50:4; (4) Gathers us into one fold—John 10:16; (5) Gives added power to prayer—Matthew 18:19.*
-  Think of other reasons; discuss and write these in your journal.
-  Can you recall a time when another believer showed you grace?
-  How hard is it to show grace and compassion to others who have wronged you?
-  Isn't Jesus the example we Christians are to follow? What did He do to the people persecuting Him? (1 Peter 2:21-25)
-  What does God do to those who humbly place themselves under submission and authority? (*He blesses and uses them—I Peter 2:13, 5:6.*)
- *Romans 12:10 tells Christians to do what? (*Put others first.*)
- *What does this action require? (*Christian maturity which according to 2 Peter 1:5-7 is (1) Virtue, (2) Knowledge, (3) Temperance, (4) Patience, (5) Goodness, (6) Brotherly Kindness, and (7) Love.*)
-  These all help us in showing grace to other believers, but which quality makes us sensitive to the needs of others? (Brotherly kindness.)
-  Think of someone you can bless by showing them grace through your actions.
-  **Dismiss in prayer.** Ask God to help you have a genuine love for others and to be able to treat fellow believers with extra measures of grace.



SHOW

Grace to the World

HANDWRITING ON THE HEART: *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15).*

HANDPRINT: We show grace to the world through both words and actions.

✎ Write the handwriting on the Heart in your journal.

✎ Go over p. 33 in *Treasure* together.

✎ How do you show grace to others? (*How about on the interstates, at the grocery store, on the job, at your children's or grandchildren's ballgames?*)

✎ Is it always natural or easy to be nice, courteous or friendly to those you don't know or sometimes those you do know?

✎ What must we remember? (*That these people may be lost and we know the WAY—John 14:6.*)

✎ Why did Jesus spend so many long hours, days and months teaching His disciples? (*So they could show others the Way—Matthew 5:2, 13; Luke 5:3, 12:1; John 9:2-3.*)

✎ Was Jesus only concerned with soul winning? (*No. He was concerned with everything His people needed or were bothered with.*)

✎ How did He help Peter personally besides granting him forgiveness? (*He healed his mother-in-law—Matthew 8:14. This is also recorded in Mark 1:29-31 and Luke 4:38-39.*)

✎ Don't you wonder when Peter had time to marry?

✎ Do these verses in 1 Peter 3:1-6 give us any indication of the nature of Peter's wife? (*I believe Peter wrote from what he knew personally or had witnessed. If not, how could he write his epistles and be believed? He had become a pillar of the church. Read Galatians 2:9.*)

✎ He lived John 3:16: "For God so loved the world..."

✎ Why then does Jesus not come back now? (*He's not willing that any should perish—2 Peter 3:9*)

✎ What will eventually happen to the world as we know it? (*2 Peter 3:10; Mark 13:31*) Even Isaiah prophesized this. Read Isaiah 51:6.

✎ What did Jesus instruct His disciples to do in Matthew 28:19-20? Aren't we to do likewise?

✎ **Dismiss in prayer.** Ask God to give you a heart for sinners and the grace to minister to them.

In Closing...

Our Daily Bread is a wonderful little devotional book. I opened it to a page last week and the sentence at the bottom caught my eye. "Those who know God's grace show God's grace." Knowing that God gives us grace and understanding is very important. We can make a difference in our daily lives by extending to others the grace God so freely shows us. Showing that grace to ourselves, our families, other believers, and even the world is a marvelous accomplishment. We will be blessed. Better still, ones who come in contact with us will be blessed.