

Grace Groups: Grace to Love the Underdogs

Week of May 31, 2026

Theme: Grace changes how we see, value, and love people.

Text: James 2:1–12

Leader Reminder

These questions are a tool, not a checklist. Please pick and choose the ones that best serve your group. You will not cover them all. The order of importance in your group is:

1. Prayer (seek God together)
2. Connection (share life and listen well)
3. Questions (engage Scripture and sermon themes)

(Don't sacrifice the first two in order to rush through all the questions.)

Warm-Up

Have you ever felt overlooked, underestimated, or judged unfairly? What made that experience stick with you?

Leader Note: Keep this relational and approachable. Allow people to share lighter experiences if they prefer, but create space for honesty and empathy.

Dig Deeper

1. James warns believers not to show favoritism (James 2:1–4). Why do you think people naturally tend to value others based on appearance, success, influence, or status?

Leader Note: Help the group identify how culture trains us to admire outward success. Encourage self-awareness without creating shame or defensiveness.

2. God looks at the heart rather than outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:7). How does God's way of seeing people challenge the way we often see others—or even ourselves?

Leader Note: Encourage reflection about hidden struggles, overlooked people, and personal insecurities. Help people see that grace changes both how we treat others and how we receive God's love ourselves.

3. Jesus consistently welcomed outsiders, sinners, and people society rejected (Luke 5:30–32). How does this reveal about the heart of Jesus and the kind of church we should become?

Leader Note: Keep the focus on the gospel. Jesus welcomes undeserving people—including us. Help the group connect receiving grace with extending grace.

4. James calls us to live by the "Royal Law": "Love your neighbor as yourself" (James 2:8–12). What does real, active love look like in everyday life—not just in words, but in action?

Leader Note: Encourage practical examples like listening, serving, forgiving, welcoming, and showing compassion to overlooked people.

Application

- Is there someone in your life you've unintentionally overlooked, avoided, or judged unfairly? What would it look like to show them grace this week?
- In what are do you personally need to receive God's mercy more deeply so you can extend mercy more freely?

Leader Note: Encourage specific action steps. Help the group move from conviction to practical obedience this week.

Prayer Focus

Thank God for His mercy toward us when we were undeserving. Pray that God would remove favoritism, pride, and prejudice from our hearts and help us love people the way Jesus does—with humility, compassion, and grace.