



Small Group Guide: When Grace Leads, Unity Follows

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share a time when someone showed you unexpected grace when you didn't deserve it. How did it impact you?

Key Scripture References

- **James 4:1, 6-8** - The source of quarrels and the call to humility
- **Ephesians 4:30-31** - What grieves the Holy Spirit
- **John 15:13** - The greatest love (laying down one's life/soul)
- **Psalm 133:1-3** - Unity brings blessing and anointing

Main Points Summary

1. Our Grace is Finite; God's Grace is Greater

- Human grace has limits and runs out
- We give too little too fast to strangers, too late and too slow to family
- God's grace is unlimited, flowing from His nature, not His mood
- We must tap into His infinite supply of grace

2. Humility Unlocks Greater Grace

- God gives grace to the humble
- Being humble means being grieved by what grieves God
- Disunity, bitterness, anger, slander, and malice grieve God
- We must ask: "Am I grieved by what grieves God?"

3. Double-Mindedness Blocks Unity

- Double-minded = two-spirited (our flesh vs. God's Spirit)
- We must allow God's Spirit to remodel our mind, will, and emotions
- The battle is spiritual, not physical
- We must choose to align with God's perspective

4. Laying Down Our Soul is the Path to Love

- Jesus laid down His life (soul/psuche) = His mind, will, and emotions
- True discipleship means laying down our mind, will, and emotions for others
- "Not my will, but Your will be done" is the model
- This is how we love like Jesus loved

5. Unity Releases God's Anointing

- When we dwell in unity, God commands blessing (Psalm 133)
- The anointing flows from leadership to the body to the very ground
- Revival comes when we reconcile and show greater grace
- We must mend relationships, not wait for others to move first

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Understanding Grace

1. The pastor compared our hearts to a cracked phone screen. What "cracks" or offenses in your life have spread because grace was missing? How did that affect your relationships?
2. Read James 4:6-8. What does it mean practically to "humble yourself before God" in the context of a broken relationship?
3. The sermon stated: "Some of us want to be more right than holy." Have you ever been in a situation where being right was more important to you than being in right relationship? What was the outcome?

Section 2: What Grieves God

1. According to Ephesians 4:30-31, what specific things grieve the Holy Spirit? Which of these do you struggle with most: bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, or malice?
2. The pastor asked: "Are we more loyal to ourselves than we are to God?" How would you honestly answer that question? What evidence supports your answer?
3. When you think about your community or church, are you grieved by what grieves God, or are you more focused on what bothers you personally? Discuss the difference.

Section 3: Laying Down Our Soul

1. The pastor explained that "laying down your life" (John 15:13) means laying down your mind, will, and emotions for others. What does this look like in practical, everyday situations?
2. Jesus prayed "not my will, but Your will be done" in Gethsemane. Share a time when you had to surrender your will to God's will. What made it difficult? What was the result?
3. The sermon said: "We can't show greater grace unless we first receive it from God." How do you personally "receive" God's grace in a way that enables you to give it to others?

Section 4: Moving Toward Reconciliation

1. Read the three practical steps from the sermon:
 - Own it (acknowledge the issue)
 - Lay down your soul (give God your mind, will, emotions)
 - Mend the relationship (don't wait for them to move first)
2. Which step is hardest for you? Why?
3. The pastor said: "How can we reconcile the world to Christ if we can't reconcile with one another?" How does disunity in the church hinder evangelism and God's work in the community?
4. Is there someone God has brought to your mind during this discussion that you need to reconcile with? What's preventing you from taking the first step?

Key Takeaways

✓ **Grace is not optional for unity—without God's greater grace, relationships fracture and disunity spreads**

✓ **Humility is the key—God gives grace to the humble, those grieved by what grieves Him**

✓ **Lay down your soul—Surrender your mind, will, and emotions to receive God's perspective**

✓ **Don't wait for them—Take the initiative to reconcile; your obedience isn't dependent on their response**

✓ **Unity releases anointing—When the church walks in unity and grace, God commands blessing and His presence flows powerfully**

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Before you leave today:

- If God brought someone to mind, text or call them to schedule a conversation
- Suggest coffee, lunch, or breakfast (keep it casual and non-threatening)
- Begin praying daily for God's grace to flow through you toward that person

Daily Practice:

- Each morning, pray: "God, not my will, but Your will be done. Show me who grieves You and give me Your heart for them."
- When offended this week, pause and ask: "Am I being loyal to myself or to God right now?"
- Practice viewing difficult people through God's eyes—as lost sheep who need a shepherd

Group Accountability:

- Share with at least one trusted person the name of someone you need to reconcile with
- Ask them to pray for you and check in with you this week
- Report back to the group next meeting about what happened

Closing Reflection Questions

1. What is one thing God spoke to you personally through this message?
2. What will you do differently this week because of what you've learned?
3. How can this group pray for you specifically regarding grace and reconciliation?

Closing Prayer

Pray together, asking God to:

- Give each person the courage to humble themselves
- Replace finite human grace with His infinite greater grace
- Heal fractured relationships in the group, church, and community
- Create unity that releases His anointing and power
- Help each person lay down their mind, will, and emotions to receive His

Additional Resources

- Memory Verse: James 4:6 - "But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, 'God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'"
- Worship Song Suggestion: Songs about grace, surrender, and unity
- Further Study: Read through the entire book of James this week, noting every reference to how we treat one another

"When grace leads, unity follows. When unity exists, God's anointing flows."