



8 GRACE SUNDAYS: Spiritual Vitality

Pastor Derek Sanford

August 1, 2021

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: How do you see evidence of Grace Church's 5 core values lived out in the church? In each other? Be personal and specific if possible!

Spiritual Vitality

Accessible Biblical Truth

Authentic Relationships

Outward Focus

All In

[more info on the core values [here](#)]

If you'd like, repeat these Questions with the church's Mission and Vision:

Mission: We exist to MAKE and to BE fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ

Vision: Transformed communities through transformed people

Scripture:

Read [Jeremiah 17:5-8](#); [John 7:37-39](#)

How are God's people being described? What is the power of this visual metaphor? What does it mean for us that Jesus is the living water?

In your own lives, what do "dry" seasons look like, sound like, feel like? How have you moved from those seasons into thriving, filled up with the "streams of living water"

Read [Philippians 3:12-16](#)

Spiritual vitality is not sudden and not self-powered or motivated. How is Paul's testimony encouraging to both the church at Philippi and to us?

Prayer: What is your next right step? Pray for one another- for discernment to know what it is, and for the courage to take the step.

Next Steps: What are the spiritual practices that keep you spiritually alive and filled up? Share some "tips" with one another and make a plan to encourage someone daily or weekly!

*Find more information about 8 Grace Sundays [here](#)!



8 GRACE SUNDAYS: Accessible Biblical Truth

Pastor Derek Sanford

August 8, 2021

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Ask the group about their quiet time. Have they been able to, “find their chair” on a regular basis. Talk about things that might keep them from being in God’s word on a daily basis.

Scripture:

Read [Psalm 119:105](#), [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#), [Hebrews 4:12](#), [1 Peter 2:1-2](#),

Four different Biblical authors share insight into what the Word of God is and the power that it has. What do you learn from each of these passages? How are you challenged, convicted, encouraged, guided by the Word of God?

Why do we find it hard to read the Bible on a regular basis? Allow time for group members to share honestly how they view the word, their journey to becoming Bible readers, etc.

Prayer: Use Psalm 19 to guide the prayer time. Read it together and let it lead into a time of praise, confession, thanksgiving and supplication (asking God for His good work). OR- Break it into sections and divide it among the group, giving each person time to write a prayer. Then read those prayers together.

Next Steps: What is your next step toward a firmer commitment to reading God’s Word? Share with the group, ask for accountability, encourage one another daily or weekly!

For Further Study:

WATCH: [How to Read the Bible](#), from the Bible Project on RightNow Media [register for *free* [here](#)!]

LISTEN: Tim Mackie (creator of the Bible Project) has a series of sermons on the Making of the Bible in his podcast, [Exploring My Strange Bible](#).

READ: [How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth](#) by Gordon D Fee and Douglas Stuart



8 GRACE SUNDAYS: Outward Focus

Guest Preacher: Ed Stetzer

August 15, 2021

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Who was (or is) the person in your life who really helped you understand the gospel? Have you had the chance to share the gospel with someone in your life?

Scripture:

Read [Romans 10:14-15](#)

Many Christians feel like the “right time” to share their faith only comes along once in a blue moon. What do we base this idea on and is it compatible with scripture? (Is it even compatible with your experiences?)

Dr. Nabeel Qureshi, author of [Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus](#), said that before he became a Christian, he “*decided that if Christians believed I was headed to hell, they either didn’t believe it was true or didn’t care enough to talk to me about it.*” How would you respond to that statement? Do you think about sharing your faith as being the beautiful feet that bring good news?

Today’s conversation is centered around our core value, [Outward Focus: The stakes are high. Our hearts will beat fast, our hands will be busy, and our wallets will be open for those who are far from God.](#) Would you consider yourself passionate about, committed to, and generous toward reaching the lost? What changes would you need to make in your life to make it more outward focused?

Prayer: Pray for the people in your circle of influences who aren’t following Jesus yet. Pray for them by name. Ask God to use you as his instrument to reach them, for His glory.

Next Steps: Invite at least one person to church this week, but encourage each other to come up with two or three (or more) people to invite!



8 GRACE SUNDAYS: All In

Pastor Derek Sanford

August 22, 2021

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Think about your life right now (home, work, church, hobbies, etc.)- for which things do you feel that you are living/going “all in”?

Scripture:

Read [Romans 12:1-6](#)

What are some ways that people tend to think more highly of themselves than they ought too? Which ways are you most susceptible to?

How may lack of humility affect a person’s service in the church?

What is your reaction when you hear that you have been given a Spiritual Gift? What gifts do you see in our group?

Complete this sentence: “If we are individually members one of another then...”

Think about the people in your life who have been examples of being “All in.” Tell us about them. What are they like? What are their qualities? What are their gifts?

Prayer: Share with one another how you feel you have been gifted and how you feel you may be called to serve God and His church. Take time to pray for one another (consider laying hands on each person as you pray)

Next Steps: What does it look like for you to take a next right step towards being “all in”?

*Leader- If someone in your group is ready to take a Next Step at Grace- CORE, Serve, baptism, etc.-, direct them to www.whoisgrace.com/next to fill out the connections form!



8 GRACE SUNDAYS: Authentic Relationships

Pastor Derek Sanford

August 29, 2021

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Authenticity is not easy! Why is it important in our relationships? Describe an authentic relationship you have with someone in your life.

Scripture:

Read [John 4:7-19](#)

Describe what kind of relationships you think this woman had before she met Jesus. Have you had any relationships like that- broken, tarnished, disappointing? How does a relationship with Jesus compare? Now imagine the woman after meeting Jesus- what steps might she have taken to reconcile past relationships? What steps have you taken?

Read [1 Thessalonians 2:7-12](#)

In this passage Paul is talking about how he not only shared the gospel of Jesus, but shared his life with the church as well. The best way to teach someone the love of Jesus is to be in relationships with them. And to be in relationship we have to share the good, the bad and sometimes even the ugly. What does authenticity look like in relationship with non-Christians? With new Christians? Do the people close to you see how much you love them or do they just get the ugly?

Prayer: In Matthew 5:44 Jesus tells his followers to LOVE their enemies and PRAY for those who persecute them. Imagine then, the level of love and prayer we must have for those we like! Take time to pray for those you love and for those who need your love.

Next Steps: Like Paul shared his life with the Philippians, take an authentic step toward relationship with someone in your life- a coworker, a neighbor, a family member. God wants to use the story of your life to encourage them and point them to hope!