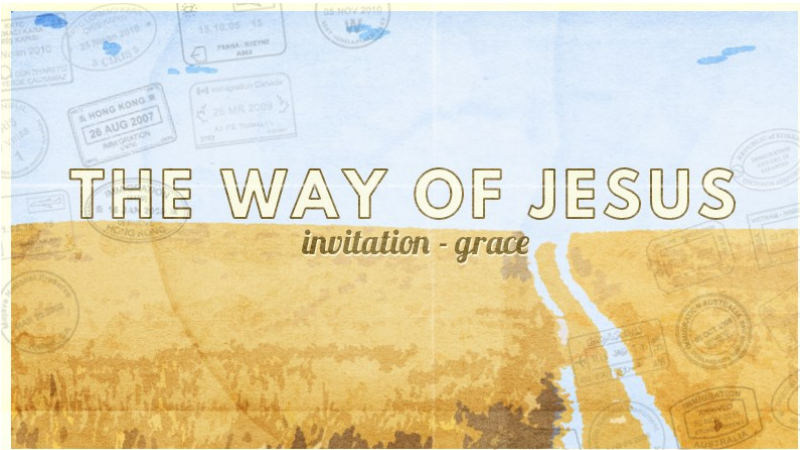




THE WAY OF JESUS
invitation - grace

small group
DISCUSSION GUIDE



To Begin

When did you first hear about Jesus? What drew you to him?

Digging Deeper

In our first session we are going to be looking at grace. Our focus is on the grace that comes to us in Jesus and the grace that we are called to express to one another. Grace is our starting point.

- What stood out to you the most from this past weekend?

Together, read from 2 Corinthians 8:9 and 2 Timothy 1:9 and then watch video Session 1.

- What stood out to you the most from the video session?
- What does the term grace mean to you? Share of a time in your life where you needed God's grace.
- How does the concept of grace make Christianity different from other world religions?

Grace is an undeserved favour or gift that is given to us from God. Grace is the undeserved forgiveness, kindness, and mercy that God gives us.

2 Corinthians 8:9 reads, " You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich."

- What words or phrases stand out to you? Why?
- How is grace best explained through a giver-receiver relationship?
- How does the broader context of 2 Corinthians 8 challenge us?

2 Timothy 1:9 reads "He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace."

- Read the verse several times over stopping after each word or phrase. Try reading it from different versions as well. What word or phrases stand out to you? Why?

Grace calls us to be a generous people because we serve a generous God.

Grace is a common theme throughout the Bible. Paul, when talking about the thorn in his flesh in 2 Corinthians 12:9 is given these encouraging words from the Lord, "'My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.' So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me."

God has extended His grace toward us, therefore we extend grace to others. It is only by the power of Christ working through us that we can truly experience His amazing grace. However, we often try do things on by our own efforts.



To Begin

- What's your love language? (Words of Affirmation, Acts of Service, Receiving Gifts, Quality Time, Physical Touch)

Digging Deeper

God's love evokes a response of love from us – love for God and for others. Love permeates all that we do. In this session we are going to talk about love and how it motivates us as followers of Jesus.

- What stood out to you the most from this past weekend

Together, read from 1 John 4:7-21 and then watch video Session 2.

- What stood out to you the most from the video session?

We strive to be great at the great commandment, the great commission, and to make the name of Jesus famous in our generation. We don't go to church because we are the church.

- In what ways can 1 John 4 strengthen our confidence before God?

- What definition of love does John give us in verse 10? How does this differ from the world's definitions of love?
- How does God's love for you urge you to love others?
- What are some practical ways we can love others on a daily basis? Who are included in the term "others"?
- According to verse 12, how does our loving one another as Christ loves us help make the invisible God visible?
- Re read verses 13-17. What are some of the ways that we can tell that we are living in God and He is living in us?
- What are the greatest hindrances to living in love?
- How can the principle "perfect love drives out fear" help you overcome your fears?
- If we find it difficult to love others, what might be the cause? Therefore, what is the first thing we must do in order to love others?
- As followers of Jesus, is there ever a situation where it is acceptable not to love our brother or sister? How does this make you feel?
- What challenges do you find in 1 John 4? What comforts do you find?

Why do we love God? Why are we able to love others? We can understand what love truly is because the one who created us is love. God is love. Love is the essence of His character. Have you ever stopped and really just thought about what it means?

"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." 1 John 4:8

- What words or phrases stand out to you from 1 John 4:8? Why? Read it again, but slower. What else jumps out at you?



To Begin

What is one of your favourite hobbies? What got you interested in this particular hobby?

Digging Deeper

Following Jesus means that we will embrace the Jesus lifestyle and allow him to shape our lives.

- What stood out to you the most from this past weekend?

Together, read from 1 John 2:6 and then watch video Session 3.

- What stood out to you the most from the video session?
- What's challenging about 1 John 2:6? Re read this verse. What words or phrases stand out to you? Why?
- What do you think it means to live as Jesus lived?

Following Jesus means that we need to learn to be hearers and doers of the Word of God. In the famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said "Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only

those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.” (Matthew 7:20-21 NLT) If we claim to be a follower of the way, our lifestyle should reflect such a claim. Our lives should be a reflection of Jesus and how he lived his life.

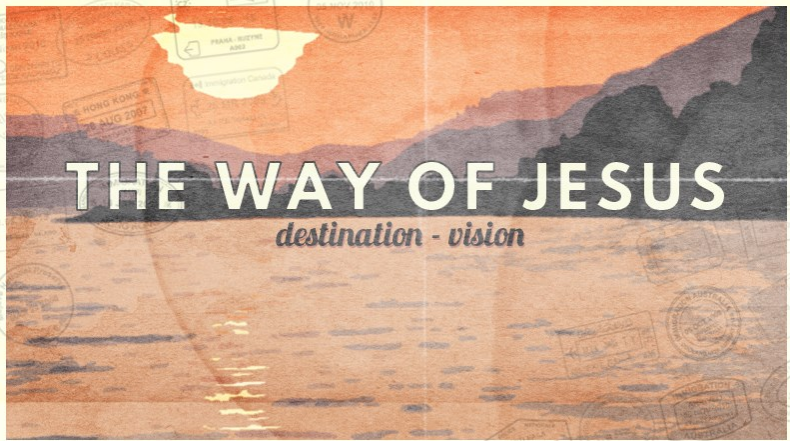
- Read 1 John 2:3-5. How does this verse encourage you to obey Christ and love others? What words or phrases stand out to you? Why?
- What does it mean to be “in Him”? What does it mean to abide in Him? Are there any other Scriptures you know about abiding in Christ?

As followers of the way of Jesus, our lives are to be different. We are to be new creatures in Christ. We are not to follow the ways of this world or our old ways of life.

- Read Ephesians 4:1-6. What words or phrases stand out to you? Why?
- What does it mean to live a life worthy of your calling?
- What lifestyle changes do you need to make?
- How does knowing how Jesus lived effect how you live today?

Praise & Prayer Points

Pray for each other’s prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life.



To Begin

- In the past, how have you imagined eternity? How do you picture heaven? What will we be doing there?

Digging Deeper

God has promised to make all things new and we live in anticipation of that promise.

- What stood out to you the most from this past weekend?

Together, read from Revelation 22:1-5, then watch video Session 4.

- What stood out to you the most from the video session?
- Do you ever struggle to understand what eternity is exactly? What misconceptions have you had in the past about what eternity will be?
- What questions do you have now? What questions simply can't be answered?
- How do we get past our unanswerable questions and embrace the mystery of forever with God? What does that

look like? Is “embracing mystery” hard for you? Why do you think that is?

- Read Ezekiel 47:1-2, 9, 12. The last chapter of Revelation picks up the vision from Ezekiel and shows us the fulfillment of it. How can this future reality revealed in Revelation and promised in Ezekiel bring us hope?

Life in heaven is described in Revelation in various ways. C.S. Lewis, in his book, *The Great Divorce*, described our new bodies as “more solid, more real, more substantial” than our present bodies. We will no longer live with disease, deterioration, decay or suffering. One day we will experience the ultimate restoration of all of God’s creation. All will be made right.

- How does the hope of eternity with God shape the way we live here? How do people who think of home as ultimately and eternally Heaven live differently than people who see earth as their only home?
- In light of eternity we must make what is eternal important and what is not eternal unimportant. God does not value the same things as we do. What do you need to re-evaluate?

Looking back over the past four sessions, we learned about who we are as the people of God and the calling He has placed on our lives to be a people of The Way. This is both personal, as a follower of Jesus, and corporate, as the community of faith. Will you choose to live a life worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

What has been the meaningful to you over the past four sessions?

Praise & Prayer Points

Pray for each other’s prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life.



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