



DISCUSSION GUIDE

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This discussion guide is intended to help your small group think through issues surrounding the recent message, *Living by Grace*. Embracing grace enables us to live the abundant life as talking, feeling, trusting, thinking, choosing, changing people.

1) In reflecting over what you heard in the message, what was your greatest takeaway?

2) The word for *grace* in Scripture comes from a word meaning *to bend or stoop*. The story of King David reaching out to Mephibosheth illustrates this in a powerful way. The power differential would have been stunning to observe. What opportunities do you currently have to reach out to people who have less power than you do and empower them with grace? *(Clue: we all have different types of power, such as positional power, personal power (from our network of relationships), situational power (based on some situation, or even generational power (based on our age.)*

3) We compared grace and shame. They are definitely on opposite ends of the teeter totter. What could PTC do in the next twelve months to generate a stronger grace culture in your midst?

4) The Apostle Paul clearly makes the point in Philippians 3 that grace plus works equals a counterfeit gospel. We typically apply this more readily in salvation than in sanctification (daily growth). What's your understanding of how we grow in grace? What does growing in grace look like to you?

5) Fences can be good or not good. It all depends. When have you seen fences fitting the category of "good?" Of "not good?" What "not good" fences in your world need to be adjusted so that grace is more obvious?

6) The message concluded with this idea, that *any church that becomes a "just as I am" church, where people can bring their brokenness and be loved with no conditions, with no pretense, this kind of church will not be able to create sufficient room inside the building for all who would want to come*. Is this actually true? How does this apply to PTC?