

## Connect Group Discussion Guide

SERMON DATE	SERMON SERIES	SERMON TITLE
11/07/2021	Moments of Grace	Grace for foes, felons, and friends
Message on YouTube	<b>Click on the link below and then click on the link that pops up below it to get to the message. Or, copy and paste the link below</b>   <a href="#">Grace for the Felons, Foes and Friends</a>	

### MESSAGE ABSTRACT:

So far in our sermon series, *Moments of Grace*, we examined grace in the lives of a woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11), in the life of Saul as he was on a mission to persecute the churches of God (Acts 9:1-16), and in the hearts of Corinthian and Macedonian churches (2 Corinthians 8:1-2).

In our final message of the series, we look at the most gracious act of all--Jesus paying our debts on the cross. This was the most "unexpected gift at an unexpected time" ever given.

Our study this week focused on the stories of grace as captured by Luke and John (Luke 23:32-43 and John 19:25-27) with three important lessons of grace:

1. **GRACE FORGIVES OUR FOES.** Jesus' very first act upon the cross was to pray, not for his own salvation, but to pray forgiveness over his foes, those responsible for Him being there. Forgiveness, because they have no idea what they are doing. Jesus is basically entering a plea of insanity on their behalf. Grace does that. Grace gives allowance and forgiveness, even when we are suffering most from it.
2. **GRACE FOCUSES ON OTHERS.** They sneered, they mocked, and they insulted, with one challenge: prove that you are Who you say you are by coming down off the cross. Of course, He could have. And, in a most unexpected way, He did when he conquered death and rose again. But none of that would have happened had He succumbed to their challenge. Grace is persevering through the pain because redemption is on the other side.
3. **GRACE MAKES FRIENDS, FAMILY.** And not to overlook a measure of grace to His beloved friend, He gives him a new mom, and her a son. In Christ, we are a family, we are sons and daughters, brothers and sisters. The bond of family unites us. He died that

we might become children of God. And that is what we are (1 John 3:1). As members of His family, we too are to make friends our family.

### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. In what way did God speak to you in the message this past Sunday?
2. If you were with Jesus, standing at the foot of the cross--not knowing what is to come, what do you suppose you might be thinking about all that you just witnessed?
3. Why is it so hard, do you suppose to pray for those who have harmed or seek to harm you? What do we gain by it?
4. Describe a truly selfless person you know. What are the character qualities you see in them? How do they persevere through their own times of trial?
5. When you think back over this series on grace, what is the most valuable takeaway for you? In what way did that change what you do?