

Grow Group Discussion Guide
for Nov 2/25 sermon, “Pure Grace,” from John 5:1-18

Resources: Recorded sermon, Growing Deep video, and discussion guide, available at <https://gbccalgary.com/podcasts/media>, and <https://www.youtube.com/@gracebaptistchurch6724>

Pick and choose from the following:

1. If you have seen the sermon, briefly share one thing that stood out to you, and why.
2. Have someone read John 5:1-18 out loud, and ask people to just listen.
 - a. Take moment of silence to think about one thing that impressed you in some way from that passage
 - b. Have someone else read the passage in a different translation, and take a moment to reflect in silence on one or two things that hit you in that passage
 - c. Share your answers (this is a modified reflection exercise called “Lectio Divina”)
3. Note how varied your answers to the above questions were, and reflect on the advantages and disadvantages, and maybe the reasons why, different people have different insights, questions, and perspectives on the same sermon or bible passage.
4. Does this story, where Jesus heals a man who shows no faith, doesn’t request anything, and isn’t grateful, challenge your ideas of how prayer or healing or God’s blessing work? Can you think of other times when God - in your life, or in scripture - does something that doesn’t seem to line up with what you believe?
5. Rob said not to let our theology interfere with our walk with Jesus or understanding of scripture. What do you think he meant? Do you have any examples of how a rigid theology has been a problem for you or someone you know?
6. In what ways did the Pharisees theology about the coming Messiah, and the Sabbath, blind them to Jesus? What were consequences of their blindness?
7. Rob stated that Jesus didn’t break any biblical Sabbath laws, but he did break their oral laws about Sabbath. What are some oral laws some Christians follow today that actually aren’t in the Bible?
8. What can a Christian do to grow in their theological understanding without repeating the errors the Pharisees?
9. Rob said that to be orthodox you have to embrace paradox. What do you think he meant? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
10. Did you agree or disagree with Rob’s ‘slippery slope’ diagram?
11. How might the following Jesus’ words to the lame man apply in your life?
 1. Do you want to be well?
 2. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.