

Grace Groups

Growing in Grace and Watching Over One Another in Love

What is a Grace Group?

Grace Groups are small communities of 6 to 8 people who meet weekly to grow deeper in faith and watch over one another in love. They are a place to be honest about your faith journey, to notice where God is at work, and to pray for each other. The format is simple, the conversation is real, and over time these become the people who know your story.

A Grace Group IS	A Grace Group is NOT
✓ A place to be honest about your faith	✗ A Bible study or lecture
✓ A community that watches over one another in love	✗ A therapy group
✓ Real conversation and shared prayer	✗ A place to fix each other's problems
✓ A rhythm you can count on each week	✗ A drop-in event

1. Center

Open with prayer or a moment of silence. Take a breath. Let the week fall away.

God of the vineyard, you go out looking for us long before we go looking for you.

Quiet the part of us that keeps score, and open our hands to a grace that does not run out. Amen.

2. Soul Tending

Check in with where you are spiritually. The five promises help us find our way into the conversation:

- **Prayers** — How is your prayer life?
- **Presence** — How has worship shaped your week?
- **Gifts** — Where are you giving your time, money, or energy?
- **Service** — Where are you serving right now?
- **Witness** — Where have you lived your faith out loud?

Pick the one or two that feel most alive, or most stuck, right now.

3. God Sightings

Share something from this week where you noticed God moving, in your life, in someone else's, or in the world around you. Big or small, it counts.

4. Growing in Grace

Name something you are carrying, a decision, a fear, a next step you have been avoiding. The group is not here to fix it. Just to hear it, sit with you in it, and pray.

5. Close

- Each person shares one prayer need in a sentence.
- Someone in the group prays for them out loud.
- Keep it simple. Hold the hard things to the light.

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Grace Group Guide • Matthew 20:1-16 • June 21, 2026

The Gospel on Stage and Screen, Week 1 · Grace That Seems Unfair

Setting the Scene. In first-century Palestine, day laborers gathered each morning hoping someone would hire them, and a denarion was a single day's survival wage. Jesus tells of a landowner who keeps returning to the marketplace, at dawn, at noon, and even at five o'clock, and pays everyone the same. The parable sets off our instinct for fairness on purpose.

Center

God of the vineyard, you go out looking for us long before we go looking for you. Quiet the part of us that keeps score, and open our hands to a grace that does not run out. Amen.

Soul Tending

- Where do you most often catch your inner accountant keeping score, at work, in your family, or in your faith?
- When have you felt like the worker nobody chose, still standing in the marketplace at five o'clock?
- Does God's grace toward other people ever feel unfair to you? What sits underneath that feeling?

God Sightings

- Where have you received a denarion you did not earn, a kindness, a second chance, an unexpected welcome?
- Who has been a landowner to you, going out of their way to include you?
- Where have you seen generosity lately that simply did not add up by the world's math?

Growing in Grace

- What would change this week if you fired the accountant and stopped keeping score?
- The sermon named everyday generosity and first-fruits giving. Which one could you practice this week?
- Who is standing in their own marketplace, waiting to hear you also? How might you go to them?

Close

Share one prayer need in a sentence, then pray for the person on your right. Close by thanking God for a grace that finds us before we ever go looking.

Grace is who God is, and it does not run out. Find a Grace Group at mcpersonfirst.org/next.

McPherson First United Methodist Church • The Gospel on Stage and Screen