

## Discussion Guide

March 30, 2025

# Legends Week 5

## Layers of Grace

Pastor Jackie Groves

### *Main Idea*

When we think of grace, the Apostle Paul is a powerful example. Born Saul, he came from a strict Jewish family, trained as a Pharisee, and was known for his zealous persecution of Christians. But everything changed on the road to Damascus.

Paul's story is one of the most profound illustrations of grace—how it can take someone with a violent past and transform them into one of the greatest voices of faith the world has ever known. Through his journey, we will learn how grace doesn't just forgive us—it rewrites our story.

### *Anchor Passage*

*We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. (Hebrews 6:11-12, NIV)*

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Read Acts 9:1-15

#### **1. There is Grace to Receive Salvation**

It doesn't matter where you come from. One encounter with Jesus changes our entire identity.

Read Ephesians 2:8-9, 2 Corinthians 2:17, John 1:16

**Question:** In light of Paul's transformation from Saul to one of the most influential leaders in Christian history, how do you think grace has the power to radically change someone's identity? What areas of your life do you think God's grace could transform in a similar way?

## 2. ***There is Grace to Understand Truth***

We are not self-sufficient, we are Christ-sufficient.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9, 9:8, Ephesians 1:17-23

**Question:** How do you think God's grace empowers you to better understand the areas of your life—like marriage, career, or dreams—that require dependence on Him? In what ways can you seek His wisdom and revelation more actively in those areas?

## 3. ***There is Grace to Live Different***

Worthy of the calling = Re[representing] Christ well

Read Ephesians 4:1-3 & 22-25

**Question:** Paul urges us to live a life worthy of our calling, even in difficult circumstances. How can we, like Paul, reflect Christ's character—humility, patience, kindness—through our actions, especially when facing challenges or opposition? In what areas of your life do you feel challenged to “put off the old self” and more intentionally “put on the new self”?

## SUMMARY

Today, we learned from the Apostle Paul's life how grace transforms us—from salvation to understanding truth and living a life worthy of our calling. Despite his past, Paul exemplified how grace empowers us to change our identity, grow in wisdom, and reflect Christ's character in humility, patience, and kindness. He urges us to put off our old selves and embrace the new, empowered by grace. As we surrender to God, we grow in His grace, becoming more like Christ and living out our purpose with faith, hope, and love. Let's pray for the grace to live this out every day.

## CALL TO ACTION

**Embrace your new identity in Christ:** Reflect on how God's grace has transformed your life. Take time this week to identify areas where your old self is still holding you back, and actively choose to live out your new identity in Christ—whether it's in your relationships, work, or personal struggles.

**Seek wisdom and understanding through prayer:** Just as Paul prayed for wisdom and revelation, commit to seeking God's guidance daily. Set aside time to pray for deeper understanding of His Word and how it applies to your life, and ask God to empower you with the grace to live it out.

**Reflect Christ's character in your actions:** Challenge yourself to embody the traits Paul encourages—humility, kindness, patience, and forgiveness—in your interactions this week. Identify

one relationship or situation where you can demonstrate Christ's character more fully, and take steps to embody those qualities in a practical way.

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## GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

### Tell Us a Story

Tell us a story icebreaker allows you to delve deeper relationally by asking your participants to answer one or more of the following questions.

- What is your favorite childhood memory or story?
- What was the best or worst thing that happened to you this weekend?
- What's the kindest act you have ever seen someone do?
- What are you most talented at doing?
- If you were given 24 hours to live, what would you do?
- Who was your favorite teacher and why?
- Who was your hero when you were a child, and what did you do to be like them?
- Name a turning point in your life that makes you smile/cry.

\*You can end the icebreaker by posing the following self-reflective question or even have some share their answers.

"What's a moment in your life when something totally changed the way you saw yourself or the world around you—kind of like how Paul went from Saul to Paul?"