



COMMUNITY OF GRACE

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Journey to the Center of Grace: A Four Week Prayer Adventure

Week 1

For God so loved you that he gave his only son...

For God did not send his son to condemn you...But that you might be saved through him. (John 3:16-17)

Hey, Grace'rs,

For the next four weeks I want to invite you on an adventure of prayer...an adventure of following Jesus into the center of grace. Fall is a time of new beginnings and new schedules and provides a chance for us to align our lives with God's grace. Per my message August 4/5, I hope you will set aside a family meal time at least twice this week, with your kids, your spouse, with significant friends, or even by yourself, to work through this devotional.

As you do so, my prayer for you these next four weeks comes from the Apostle Paul:

I pray that from God's glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into

God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹

May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully.

Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

(Ephesians 3:16-19)

As you begin, I invite you to answer the following questions. Then, read through this brief devotional and pray through the follow up questions. Come back to this prayer adventure a few times this week and see how God uses it to give you new insights into God's lavish, reckless grace for *you*.

When you think about God, what do you see?

When you think about life, what do you see?

When you think about faith, what do you see?

When I go for a bike ride, I track that ride via an app. But sometimes, when the ride is done and I hit stop, the ride data won't upload. So I have to shut off my phone to reboot it. Once rebooted, the date uploads and all is well again with the world.

Grace is God's gift that reboots everything!

It reboots:

Our view of God.

- *We no longer see God as:*
 - An angry judge
 - A wrathful force in nature
 - Condemning
 - Harsh
 - Demanding
- *But as:*
 - Loving
 - Forgiving
 - Recklessly Accepting
 - Generous
 - A God who is always and only for us

It reboots:

Our view of life.

- *We no longer see life as:*
 - Something to be consumed
 - Built on what we accumulate...
 - Affirmed by the number of likes of our latest selfie...
 - Based on our achievements
- *But as:*
 - A daily gift from our Creator
 - Living in the affirmation of God's lavish love for us
 - Something to give away for the sake of others

It reboots:

Our view of faith.

- *We no longer see faith as:*
 - A list of demands that must be met
 - Obligations we have to fulfill
 - Something we have to muster up to get God to act
 - The things we need to do to please God
- *But as:*
 - A gift God inspires in us through his grace
 - A joy-filled response to God's bold, reckless love
 - The freedom of loving our neighbor because God already loves us
 - The re-orienting of our lives around following Jesus

Prayer Time:

In what ways does the grace of God, seen in Jesus, challenge, enhance, or change your view of God? Your view of life? Your view of faith?

What if this really is true? What if God really does love you more than you can comprehend? How might that shape your life? Your priorities? Your family? How have you seen God's grace reboot your life? Where might you need a reboot of grace today?

What's one take away about God's overwhelming love for you?

Pastor 

Pastor Tim

