

Questions for Grace Week 2

- Before the sermon, have you ever heard of the two broad categories that theologians use to distinguish grace - common grace and special grace?
- How would you define each category and what are some examples of each?
- What are some ways that you have received God's common grace that have been special to you?
- Do you think that God's common grace largely gets ignore? If so, why?
- What are some common graces that you can praise God for right now? Take some time and sing, read scripture or pray prayers of praise and thanksgiving to God for His common grace.
- The primary means of special grace is Jesus Christ, and His sacrifice on the cross. So we can get to know one another better, take time to share how you became a Christian, and what drew you to Christ. Take your time with this exercise. It is relational in nature. Feel free to ask questions as people explain their story. You do not get brownie points for finishing this quickly.
- Now that you have discussed God's special grace in your redemption (getting saved), how have you seen God's special grace in your sanctification (becoming more like Jesus)? What things or people have helped you grow in your knowledge, your faith, and the expression of your faith?
- Theologians can get nit picky. On the topic of special grace they have four sub topics:
 - Prevenient grace - God taking the initiative to man
 - Efficacious grace - God's grace is always effective in its purposes
 - Irresistible grace - God's grace cannot be resisted
 - Sufficient grace - God's grace sustains us even in trials
- Do you think theologians are being nit picky with these various identifications? Why or why not?
- Of these four parts of special grace, which ones have you experienced the most, or been the most special to you? Why?
- The reason we need special grace is because we are all sinners. How does the suggestion that you would have chosen your own path if you had been in the garden strike you? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- Part of the reason for these life groups is to help us identify areas of sin that God is pointing out to us, point out areas of sin to loving friends, and keep us accountable for how God is at work in our lives.
 - It is good to keep this goal in view so we know where we are headed
 - If there is anyone that is ready to talk about how God may be working in their life, this would be a great time.
 - Remember, we are on a long journey to being like Christ. Sharing openly may not happen overnight and that is okay. Please realize that this group exists to help guide, direct and even push each of us toward being like Christ.