Grace Upon Grace, Week 10

Small Group Discussion Guide, week of Nov. 23rd

NOV 23RD SERMON SUMMARY

The Discipline of Grace (Psalm 32)

Our relationship with God is not based on doing the disciplines (quiet time, prayer, etc.) but discipline is required in order to experience grace. We need discipline to:

1. Discern Truth (v. 1-2). We are fully forgiven, and that brings blessing and joy. We need the discipline of discovering and reminding ourselves of the truth that we are fully forgiven.

2. Apply Truth (v. 3-5). We need the discipline of receiving and experiencing forgiveness (i.e, "Practicing the Power of grace"). We have the opportunity to come to God, receive forgiveness, and thank Him - choosing gratitude rather than guilt.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

I. INTRODUCTION: What's your most (or least) favorite family holiday tradition?

IL THINK AND REFLECT.

1. When we don't discern the truth, we can feel guilty and condemned instead of feeling fully convinced that we are fully forgiven. Erik talked about 3 reasons we have a hard time discerning the truth.

- How does **common sense** about how the world works influence you?
- How does your **conscience** tell you that you're not really forgiven?
- How does **Satan,** the father of lies, lead you to doubt God's goodness?

2. Read Psalm 32:1-5.

1 Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. **2** Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. **3** When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.	**4** For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. **5** Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

In verses 1-5, David (the writer of the psalm) is describing his experience with sin.

a. Describe what David is feeling in v. 3-4.

b. If you are familiar with the life of David, what sin do you think he might be referring to? Talk about what happened and why he is feeling so bad.*

c. What does he know about God and how does that makes a difference for him? How does he discern and apply truth?

3. Read Psalm 32: 6-11.

6 Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. **7** You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. **8** I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.	**9** Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. **10** Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him. **11** Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

In verses 6-11, forgiveness leads David to further praise and conversation with God. What does David know about God, and how does he experience God's presence in:

- V. 6-7
- V. 8-9
- V. 10-11

4. Knowing the truth about God makes a difference for us in understanding His grace, discerning truth, and applying it.

a. How do you envision God's response to your sin? Do you picture a disappointed and angry God, or a loving and forgiving God? Which picture is true?

b. Share a verse, a Bible story, or a personal experience that stands out to you and helps you believe the truth of the grace of God and that we are fully forgiven.

III. PERSONAL APPLICATION (Choose 1 of the following if time is limited)

5. As you think back on the last few weeks of this Grace Upon Grace sermon series, how has God been speaking to you …

- About how you feel?
- About how you view God?
- About how you view yourself?
- About how you can grow?
- About discerning and applying truth?

6. How can you cultivate grace and gratitude instead of guilt?

*Question 2b. Verses 3-4 probably refer to David's sin of adultery with Bathsheba and having her husband Uriah killed. See 2 Samuel 11-12, also Psalm 51 for more info.