

# Series Title: 'Transformed by Grace'

Subtitle: 'Refuel V: Living & experiencing grace in our daily lives (target 20s-40s)

**1. Plenary Sessions:** Bookending the day with slots for more interactive sessions either side of lunch.

**Session 1: Experiencing Grace:** Grace is an everyday term for meal-time prayers, addressing royalty, musical notes and rooted in the idea of grace are expressions such as 'persona non grata' or gratis (free of charge). In the Bible, Grace typically carries the sense of *God's unmerited favour* and/or the sense of *God's divine assistance*. *Refuel V* is all about understanding and experiencing grace in and through our everyday lives. Yet getting our thinking straight on what grace is and how it should transform our lives is far from straightforward. Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones said that a true understanding of grace will bring the possibility for misunderstanding. If we understand grace to be as wonderful as it really is, some will use grace as an excuse for licence. Others will struggle to let go of our legalism and our inclination to earn our way to God. This performance treadmill is hard to shake even after having come to know Christ. We really struggle to live by grace in our day to day lives.

**Session 2: Transformed by Grace:** We conclude the day thinking about how we are Transformed by Grace. Paul says in Romans 8:5 that "*those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires*". Elsewhere in Galatians 5:25 Paul urges us to "*keep in step with the Spirit*." In doing so, we will see & experience how grace transforms our lives.

**2. Interactive Sessions:** Two one-hour slots with a selection of three seminars/workshops to choose from in each. These sessions are divided into three: the 'UP' sessions are about God's grace to us and our relationship with God, the 'IN' sessions are about God's grace working through us into our relationships with other Christians and the 'OUT' sessions are about God's grace working through us into our relationships with those who do not yet know Jesus for themselves. Expect the morning seminars to include a higher proportion of input, while the afternoon workshops will involve a higher degree of conversation.

## Slot 1: Morning Seminars

### UP1. Holiness: Living Grace-filled lives (Titus 2:11-14)

**Blurb:** Do you experience the apparent tension between the fact that we have freedom in Christ and yet continue to struggle with sin? In this session we will focus in on Paul's challenging teaching about how *grace teaches us to say no to ungodliness* and instead live godly lives. When we make the decision to follow Jesus we don't move on from grace – no we need to live by grace day by day as we continue to struggle with the conflict between the desires of our sinful nature and the desires of the Holy Spirit who now lives within us. This session will help us understand the role of grace as our motivator towards holiness.

### IN1. Community: Serving together with Grace (Philippians 1:25-2:5)

**Blurb:** What does it mean to be a spiritually healthy community? In Paul's letter to the church in Philippi he talks passionately about things like *progress and joy in the faith, boasting in Christ, striving together in unity, being likeminded, being humble and imitating Jesus*. We would all love our communities to be characterised by these things, but we also know we don't always see eye-to-eye with other believers. Euodia & Syntyche (Philippians 4:2-3) and Paul & Barnabas (Acts 15:36-41) are good case studies. In this 'IN' session we will focus on how we respond with grace to others in the Body of Christ.

### OUT1. Words: Communicating with Grace (James 3:1-12, Colossians 4:2-6, Matthew 5:13)

**Blurb:** Do you experience how hard it is to consistently speak in a way that brings glory to God? James writes about how impossible it is to tame our tongues and yet our words are a huge part of our witness to others. In Acts 6:8 Stephen is described as a man who was *full of grace*. Paul writes that our conversation should be *full of grace and seasoned with salt*. As an 'OUT' seminar option this session will focus on how we communicate grace-filled words with our friends who do not yet know Jesus.

## Slot 2: Afternoon Workshops

### UP2. Prayer: Approaching the throne of Grace (Hebrews 4:14-16)

**Blurb:** Where do you tend to turn when things are tough? The writer to the Hebrews encourages us to approach the *throne of grace* with confidence. At this throne, we will find grace and mercy to help us in our time of need. What an encouragement to

know that Jesus, our High Priest is able to sympathise with us in every way. We will think practically about how prayer enables us to appropriate God's grace into our lives and spend some time together praying through these incredible truths.

### **IN2: Gifts: Stewards of Grace (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12:3-8 & 1 Peter 4:9-11)**

**Blurb:** What's the big deal with spiritual gifts? Do you know what gifts God has given to you? The Greek word *charis* (grace) is closely related to charisma/charismata (gift/gifts). So, when the New Testament speaks of spiritual gifts we are talking about grace-gifts. Paul says that the Holy Spirit gives different gifts to each of us, as He determines. Whatever grace-gifts God does give us, Paul is clear that they are given for the common good. Peter says that with these giftings, we are stewards of God's grace. In this 'IN' session, we will consider which ones God has given to each of us and how we can use them to bless others.

### **OUT2. Service: Channels/Conduits of Grace (Ephesians 3:1-13, 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12)**

**Blurb:** How does God want us to demonstrate His grace in the way that we live out our lives? In Ephesians 3 Paul says that he became a servant of the gospel by God's grace. For their sake God gave to Paul (the least of all God's people), the administration of God's grace. Paul spoke elsewhere of his intentional desire to share not only the gospel of God, but his life as well. As an 'OUT' session this will focus mainly on brainstorming together some of the ways that we can live out our lives in such a way that we become channels/conduits of God's grace as well as some of the things that hold us back from doing that.

## **Alternative Seminars Ideas**

### **UP3. Giving: Act of grace (2 Corinthians 8-9)**

**Blurb:** Ever wondered what our *giving* has got to do with grace? Paul in these chapters spells out a close connection and it is very challenging. He says that God had given grace to the Macedonian churches enabling them to give generously out of their severe poverty. Paul uses this as an example to encourage the Corinthians to complete their own *act of grace* and go on to excel in this *grace of giving*. *This session will focus on how God's grace to us should motivate us to generously give back to Him.* As an 'UP' session, we will be considering how the grace of giving is an integral part of our worship to God.

### **C1. Garments of Grace (Colossians 3:12-15, Galatians 5:22-23) – UP**

### **C2. Growing in Grace (2 Peter 3:18) – UP**

### **C3. The Word of His Grace / Testifying to His Grace (Acts 20:24,32) – UP/OUT**

### **C4. Be strong in grace / Keep going in Grace (2 Timothy 2:1 / Ephesians 6:10-20 / Galatians 1,5) – UP**

### **C5. Providence – Grace amidst the chaos of life (Gen 50/Job 1-3) – UP**