

Understanding Grace

Key Scriptures: 2 Samuel 9:1-13; 1 Samuel 20:14; 1 Samuel 24:20-22; 2 Samuel 4:4

1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What's the longest line you have ever waited in? What was it like to wait in that line?
- Have you ever had to wait for something significant to happen in your life? What was it? How long did you wait? Was it worth the wait? Why or why not?
- Why do you think waiting can be so difficult?

2. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- How would you describe David's attitude in 2 Samuel 9:1?
- Look back at 1 Samuel 18:3 and 20:42. What do we know about David's relationship with Jonathan?
- How would you define grace? Read 2 Samuel 9:6-13. How do these verses show us the nature of grace?

3. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Read 2 Samuel 4:4. Considering this and the fact that the name Mephibosheth literally means "he scatters shame", what do you think Mephibosheth's upbringing was like?
- Put yourself in Mephibosheth's place and imagine being summoned to appear before David the new king. What might you be thinking?
- Is "enemy" too strong a word for people outside of Christ? Why or why not?
- What are some specific ways you have seen God's grace and love to you this week? How can that empower you to show love and grace to others?

4. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- This week let's pray for each other in our group. Ask this question: What's one way our group can pray for you in regard to how you can show God's love and grace to someone this week?
 - Pray for your group members.
 - Pray for the people they are showing God's love and grace to.

5. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- How, specifically, can you mirror grace to those closest to you? (Like your friends, co-workers, teachers, parents, children, spouse, etc.)
- Choose at least one person to demonstrate God's grace and love this week.