

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Spring 2025 - Trained By The Gospel (Titus) - "Motivated By Grace"

Monday, Feb. 10 - Sunday, Feb. 16 (Week 2)

EMPHASIS FOR THE MONTH: *Laying the Foundation*. As we kick off this month, let's be intentional about building strong relational foundations in our groups. Whether it's getting to know new members or catching up with returning ones, take time to foster connection. A simple question, sharing food and/or drink, or an extra moment to listen can go a long way in cultivating trust and belonging. Healthy groups start with strong relationships. Let's lead with intentionality and care. I would love to hear how it's going. Feel free to share any wins or creative ideas!

ICE BREAKER: If you could receive an extravagant gift of any kind, what would it be and why? How does this compare to the concept of "divine largesse" mentioned in the sermon?

CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. On Saturday, February 22 at 6 PM the Prime Timers will be joined by the CAB Youth Group for a potluck dinner, a testimony by Jim Moylan, and then a friendly generational challenge of wits! Prime Timers, please sign up in our Monday email newsletter and indicate what dinner item you will bring. If you have any questions, please contact Kris Rienstra at kgrienstra@gmail.com
2. We hope you will join us every Tuesday night at 6:30 PM for our weekly prayer gathering.

PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION: Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time. Pray that the The Holy Spirit would assist in the conversing, processing, and listening of the discussion.

SERMON DISCUSSION TIME: Have someone read the passage: Titus 3:1-7, and then read this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

In Pastor McKinney's sermon titled, "Motivated by Grace," he explores how the Gospel of Jesus Christ fundamentally shapes our lives and interactions, particularly in the difficult task of showing unconditional kindness to all people. He references the Apostle Paul's letter to Titus, emphasizing that while individuals might agree with moral principles, the true challenge lies in understanding the motivation behind these actions. Pastor McKinney highlights that Christians are called not merely to adhere to the Golden Rule (treating others as one would like to be treated) but to reflect on the grace and mercy they have received from God, which empowers them to extend kindness regardless of how they are treated in return. Through the exposition of Titus 3:1-7, Pastor McKinney illustrates that the essence of Christian behavior is rooted in an accurate self-understanding as unworthy recipients of God's astounding mercy. This recognition transforms how believers interact with others, allowing them to rise above negative treatment and embody Christ-like grace. He further elaborates on the inner change that occurs through the Holy Spirit's work, making every believer capable of demonstrating the same compassion they have received from God. As the sermon concludes, Pastor McKinney invited us to reflect on our own lives and relationships, encouraging us to embrace the abundant grace of God in order to effectively love those around us, especially those who are most challenging to love.



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Understanding Grace:

- How does understanding God's grace change the way you view your daily interactions with others?
- What is one area in your life where you can let grace be your primary motivator this week?

Reflecting on Our Past:

- The sermon mentioned that we were once "foolish, disobedient, led astray." Can you share a personal experience where reflecting on your past helped you extend grace to someone else?

Living Out the Gospel:

- How does the Gospel shape the way we interact with people who don't treat us the way we *think* we should be treated?
- Think of one person in your life who has been difficult to love. What are some practical ways you can show "unconditional kindness" to that person?

Dealing with Pride and Self-Righteousness:

- Why do you think pride and self-righteousness are common pitfalls for Christians and how can we guard against these attitudes in our own lives?
- Reflect on a recent situation where you may have acted out of pride or self-righteousness. What steps can you take to address this and seek reconciliation if needed?

PRAY TOGETHER: Spend time taking *and recording* prayer requests and then pray together as a group (*I strongly encourage you to send out the prayer requests weekly to your group to keep everyone informed and in the loop on how to pray for one another throughout the week. This also makes it easier to check-in with people who have shared requests to see how the Lord has been working in their lives*).

