

FUNDAMENTALS
OF THE CHRISTIAN
LIFE SERIES



Walk in Grace and Holiness

SIX BIBLE STUDY LESSONS
FOR GROUP DISCIPLESHIP

Walk in Grace and Holiness

SIX BIBLE STUDY LESSONS
FOR GROUP DISCIPLESHIP



EVERY NATION
P R O D U C T I O N S

How to Use this Material

In Victory, the primary venue for discipleship happens in a small group. It is called a Victory group. We strongly encourage everyone to be involved since these groups are specifically designed to help disciples grow spiritually.

A Victory group meeting has three sections: **Connect**, **Word**, and **Prayer**, and ideally lasts from forty to sixty minutes.

CONNECT (5-10 minutes)

Victory group meetings begin with a time to relate with one another. Depending on the people who comprise the group, this can be done through a variety of ways:

- Fun—such as an icebreaker activity
- Answered prayers—sharing of testimonies and updates
- Questions—such as those provided in the material, learning each other’s personal stories, and sharing feedback from the weekly message

Effective Questions During the Connect Portion:

- Are deliberately friendly to first-timers
- Ask for opinion or experiences
- Require no Bible knowledge
- Have no right or wrong answer
- Are not controversial
- Are preferably connected to the meeting’s topic

WALK IN GRACE AND HOLINESS

Copyright © 2014 by Every Nation Productions
Published by EVERY NATION PRODUCTIONS
P.O. Box 12229 Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines
email: productions@everynation.org.ph

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from EVERY NATION PRODUCTIONS.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

WORD (20-30 minutes)

Teach the truth and relevance of God's Word for life application. The Victory group meeting is not primarily a Bible study. Although teaching and explanation of Scripture is involved, the goal is to minister, not finish a material.

There is no need to teach all the points in a material.

Within this section, we look at what the Bible says, its relevance to us today, and its application in our lives.

What: *What does the Bible say?*

Communicate and impart biblical truth clearly and concisely.

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 TIMOTHY 3:16,17

Tips for Sharing the Word Effectively

- Let the Bible speak for itself.
- Use illustrations and tell stories to explain Bible verses.
- When entertaining clarifications, be watchful not to allow the discussion to go off-tangent.
- The primary goal is to minister to the needs of the people, not to finish a Bible lesson.
- Be led by the Spirit when using the material.

So What: *What is the relevance of the Word to my life?*

Give participants the opportunity to discuss how the Word impacts the way they live.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

ROMANS 12:2

Now What: *How do I apply the Word to my life?*

Our primary reason for sharing the Bible is so that people will know who God is and what He has done. In doing so, the participants will begin to discover who they are and what they should do.

If it is a promise, teach them to claim it. If it is a command or a principle, encourage them to put it to action by God's grace. If it is a truth, let them embrace it willingly and not under compulsion. Allow God's grace and love to win them by the way you teach God's Word.

Encourage specific, measurable action steps that are consistent with the life change that the Scripture is bringing about. We do not command people, but we spur them on toward love and good deeds.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves.

Do what it says. JAMES 1:22

Tips for Life-Changing Application

- You may choose one of the "So What" and "Now What" questions or you may add your own.
- An effective standby application question is: "What one action step are you going to take as a result of what you heard today?"
- Designate who will be the first to answer the question asked.
- Do not allow someone to argue or be critical of others.
- Remind everyone to apply the lesson to their own lives, not to someone else's.
- Ask God for wisdom to know when to balance or correct strange or unbiblical applications. Insensitive correction or criticism can kill the group, as can unchecked heresy.
- Remind everyone that transformation is God's work, not ours, and our obedience is a response to who He is and His love for us. It is God's grace that enables us to apply and obey His Word.

PRAY (15-20 minutes)

Prayer is the most important part of the Victory group meeting. Make sure you have plenty of time left so your prayer time is not rushed. This is not a “closing prayer,” but a time for everyone in the group to take specific requests to God. This is where the action is. The goal is to create a venue where people will see God move on their behalf.

“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.” MATTHEW 18:19

Tips for Powerful Prayer

- Listen to the Holy Spirit carefully during the Connect and Word sections for things that may need prayer.
- Spend your time praying for one another, not sharing and discussing prayer requests.
- Keep your prayers simple, sincere, and short. Most non-believers have never heard an ordinary Christian just talk to God and will be touched by the sincerity and simplicity of the prayer.
- Pray, don’t preach. Pray in simple and short sentences, not long “sermon prayers.”
- Use conversational prayer, not complicated or profound, intercessory prayer.
- Expect God to answer your prayers.

CONTENTS

1	God’s Grace	1
2	Saving Grace	5
3	Enabling Grace	11
4	God’s Holiness	15
5	A Holy Call.....	19
6	A Holy Life	23

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ . . . GALATIANS 1:3

WHAT

In the world's system, performance is the gauge to success in sports, studies, work, and even in life. If we are used to do this, it will be hard for us to grasp the idea of grace, which is vital in the Christian life. What then is grace? Grace is God's undeserved favor and divine empowerment for us. The Bible says we have been saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). The following points will help us understand and appreciate God's grace.

1 Grace comes from God.

From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. JOHN 1:16

. . . Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. ROMANS 1:7

In times of failure, we normally run to our loved ones for comfort, knowing that they will readily accept us. God as our Father gives us grace by accepting us as His children even in times of failure. He is full of grace.

*What does it mean to be gracious?
How has God been gracious to you?*

2 Grace is based on God's sacrifice.

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father . . . GALATIANS 1:3,4

Jesus' sacrifice did not only spare us from the punishment of our sins. He has given us grace to live and He has blessed us—beyond our wildest imaginations—with His presence and love.

How does the grace of God help you live your life now?

3 Grace is a gift from God.

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. EPHESIANS 2:8,9

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ROMANS 5:15

A gift is something that we don't earn and deserve; it's something we simply accept and can be thankful for. Grace is God's gift to us. All we need to do is to receive it. We cannot earn it by our own efforts.

How should we respond to the gift of God's grace?

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. TITUS 2:11

WHAT

Because of God’s saving grace, we can have a relationship with Him. We can easily tap into His grace every day. Yet oftentimes, we do not understand this grace because we are used to earning the things we need. In this lesson, we will look at what God’s saving grace is and what it does in our lives.

1 Saving grace is God’s gift, not something we can earn.

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. EPHESIANS 2:8,9

Salvation is a gift from God—therefore, all we need to do is receive this gift by accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior. This gift is dependent on the Giver. We do not and cannot earn it.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Why can't we earn salvation (Romans 3:22-24)?

2 Saving grace is God forgiving us all our sins and giving us eternal life through Jesus.

⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

EPHESIANS 2:4,5

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. ROMANS 6:23

Sin is to be repaid with death, and because we are all sinners, we all deserve death. But because of God’s love, mercy, and grace, Jesus paid our debts so we can be forgiven and have eternal life.

What did Jesus do to make this possible?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

3 Saving grace is Jesus’ sacrifice so we can live full and blessed lives.

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

JOHN 10:10

From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. JOHN 1:16 (SEE ALSO 2 CORINTHIANS 8:9)

Jesus' sacrifice not only gave us eternal life and forgiveness, it also opened the way for us to enjoy His blessings and be victorious. He wants us to have life and have it to the full. This is all possible because of His grace and goodness.

How has God's saving grace changed your life?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

SO WHAT

- How does the grace of God challenge your understanding of why you are blessed and what you deserve? Why is God's grace a gift?
- If you know God has forgiven you, how does this change you? Why does God forgive us all our sins?
- What do you think it means to live life to the fullest? Why does Jesus want us to live a full life?

NOW WHAT

- Have you received God's gift of eternal life through His grace? Do you believe that God has forgiven you for all your sins? If not, would you like to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior today?
- Do you sometimes feel that you still need to earn God's favor? How can you have a greater understanding of God's grace starting this week?
- How can you live the full life God wants you to have every day?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His mercy and grace, that He made the way for us to know Him. Thank God for His love and sacrifice on the cross.
- Pray that you would live life to the full, as God ordained it. Pray that you would walk in the victory Christ gained through the cross every single day.
- Pray for your friends and family who have not encountered God and His saving grace yet, that they would surrender their lives to Him and live for Him. Pray that you would boldly proclaim the gospel to many.

3

Enabling Grace

CONNECT

- What's the most difficult thing you've had to do this year? Why has it been so challenging?
- Did you ever have to try out for a sport or club? Share the experience.
- Tell us about one of your talents that not many people may know about.

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

HEBREWS 4:16

WHAT

God's grace results in our redemption from sin and receiving eternal life. In addition to this, God's grace is the reason we can live victoriously every day. In this lesson, we will look at how God's grace divinely enables us to live the life He has planned for us.

1 God's grace enables us to live a godly life and be like Christ.

¹¹For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age . . . TITUS 2:11,12

When we received Jesus in our lives, God didn't just give us standards to live on our own. He also enables us through the Holy Spirit to be godly and become more like Christ.

As Christians, why can we say "no" to sin?

.....
.....
.....
.....

2 God's grace empowers us to overcome troubles and trials.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 1 PETER 5:10 (SEE ALSO JOHN 16:33.)

How has God's grace helped you overcome trouble?

The Bible promises that we will have trouble and suffering, but that these are temporary. We can endure these trying times and situations because of God's grace.

.....
.....
.....
.....

3 God's grace helps us fulfill our God-given destiny.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us . . . ROMANS 12:6 (SEE ALSO EXODUS 31:2,3.)

God has deposited in each of us talents and abilities from the start, for His purposes. By His grace, He will help us fulfill His destiny for us.

What are some of the gifts God has given us (Romans 12:6-8)?

.....
.....
.....
.....

"There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God."

1 SAMUEL 2:2

I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. . . . LEVITICUS 11:44

WHAT

Holiness is a major theme that runs throughout the Bible. It means "to be set apart" and is contrasted against things that are common. The God we serve is a holy God, and it is important that we see Him as He is if we are to be holy. When Isaiah encountered God, he saw God's holiness. In this lesson, we will look at three of Isaiah's realizations about God.

1 God is enthroned.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted . . . ISAIAH 6:1

Isaiah was mourning the passing of King Uzziah, a great king of Israel and his partner in bringing about reform in the nation. Yet what he encountered in the temple was the revelation of God enthroned, a heavenly King who rules and reigns. Regardless of how hopeless our situations may seem, we can rest on the reality that God is in charge and in control.

What does sitting on a throne imply?

.....

.....

.....

.....

2 God is glorious.

. . . I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted and the train of his robe filled the temple. ISAIAH 6:1

In the past, kings would wear robes with long trains to symbolize their nobility, honor, and stature. Isaiah's description of the length of the train of God's robe was his attempt to capture the idea of God's awesome glory. In fact, God was so glorious that His train alone filled the temple.

If you were to try to describe God's glory, how would you explain it?

.....

.....

.....

.....

3 God is holy.

. . . "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." ISAIAH 6:3

The authors of the Bible would often repeat words to emphasize an important point, similar to how we increase font size or highlight materials today. To say that God is "holy, holy, holy" is to declare God's holiness in the highest possible degree. No other attribute of God is mentioned this way. God is described in many ways, but above all these, He is holy. To be holy is to be different from everything else, set apart, consecrated, and without blemish.

How do we compare to God's holiness?

.....

.....

.....

.....

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. . . . ⁵“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.” ISAIAH 6:1,5

WHAT

When Israel’s great king died, Isaiah had the amazing revelation that the King of kings is also a holy God. After encountering God, it’s impossible for a person to not be transformed. In this lesson, we will look into Isaiah’s life-changing experience of the holiness of God.

1 He recognized the majesty of God.

. . . I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. ISAIAH 6:1

¹⁶For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. COLOSSIANS 1:16,17

Isaiah realized that the God he served was a sovereign and powerful King. Like Isaiah, we too can choose to recognize that God is in charge of all our lives, and that in Him all things hold together.

.....

.....

.....

Share of a time when you experienced God’s power to hold things together on your behalf.

2 He received the mercy of God.

⁵“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.” ⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” ISAIAH 6:5-7 (SEE ALSO ROMANS 3:22-26.)

When Isaiah saw God, he saw himself as unholy, unclean, and unrighteous. Isaiah acknowledged that he could not change on his own. God had mercy on him and cleansed his guilt by atoning for his sin. Jesus became the atoning sacrifice for our sins, so we too can experience the mercy of God.

What is “atonement” and why is there a need for it?

.....

.....

.....

3 He responded to the mission of God.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” ISAIAH 6:8

After Isaiah’s guilt was removed, God called him to participate in His work in Israel. In the same way, allowing God to transform us will open doors of opportunity for us to get involved in God’s work in our circles of influence and relationships today.

Share why you responded to God’s call to honor Him and make disciples.

.....

.....

.....

SO WHAT

- How does a revelation of the holiness of God change a person? How did it change Isaiah?
- Why do you think we sometimes try to look at ourselves and our circumstances rather than the majesty and greatness of God? How do you think our perspectives need to be adjusted?
- In the Bible, who are some of the people who received a holy call from God? What can we learn from them?

NOW WHAT

- Have you responded to God’s holy call for your life? Are you living for Him and have you surrendered your life to Him? Have you received His mercy and forgiveness? If not, would you like to do so today?
- How can you appreciate and walk in the majesty and mercy of God this coming week?
- Name three people you know who have not surrendered their lives to Christ yet. How can you begin telling them more about Jesus this week?

-
- Thank God for His mercy and grace for you. Acknowledge His holiness and majesty.
 - Pray that you would walk in humility before God. Pray that you would always appreciate His mercy, kindness, and forgiveness.
 - Ask God to use you to share His love and grace to your friends and family who don’t know Jesus yet. Believe God for opportunities to share the gospel, even this coming week.

6

A Holy Life

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

CONNECT

- What’s the most dangerous activity you have ever participated in? What was it like?
- What is your favorite dessert? Why do you like it so much?
- Name one person whom you greatly respect. What do you respect about him/her?

You must distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean . . .

LEVITICUS 10:10

¹⁵But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." ¹PETER 1:15,16

WHAT

God is calling each of us to be holy. More than just following rules, holiness is an issue of identity. If we recognize that we are holy, we will live in an uncommon way that is pleasing to our uncommon God. Here are three examples of what a holy life—an uncommon life—looks like.

1 Walking with God leads to uncommon conviction.

⁶. . . Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, ⁷and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" ⁸But he refused. . . . ⁹"How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"

GENESIS 39:6-9

Joseph's conviction to live a pure and holy life was a result of His relationship with God. He knew that succumbing to temptation would not please God. Following God brings us to a path of purity and enables us to say "no" to temptation.

Why was Joseph able to live an uncommon life? (See also Genesis 39:2,21,23.)

.....

.....

.....

2 Walking with God leads to uncommon character.

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

DANIEL 1:8 (SEE ALSO DANIEL 6:4)

Daniel was a man of great character and wisdom. Because he chose to follow God and His ways, Daniel experienced both favor and persecution. Yet through it all, Daniel remained faithful to God and had uncommon character.

What were some of the challenges Daniel faced as he chose to walk with God? What happened?

.....

.....

.....

3 Walking with God leads to uncommon courage.

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ACTS 4:13

Peter and John had boldness and courage to proclaim the gospel, not because of their natural abilities, but because they walked with Jesus. Even in the face of personal danger, they chose to share God's message of love and redemption.

What brought about Peter and John's situation in Acts 4? What happened next?

.....

.....

.....

SO WHAT

- Why do you think we need godly standards and convictions today? Why can't we just go with the flow?
- What do you think uncommon character looks like? Why is character so important, yet difficult to develop?
- What do you think is the significance of "walking" with God? What does walking imply? Who are some of the people in the Bible who walked with God and how were they different because of this?
- How did the uncommon courage of the early church change the world?

NOW WHAT

- Do you have godly standards and convictions in your life? In what area do you think you need to develop uncommon conviction?
- Are you living to please God no matter what? How can you develop uncommon character every day?
- What would you do if you had uncommon courage? What do you need courage for this week?

-
- Thank God for the grace He gives you to live an uncommon life.
 - Pray for a passion to pursue the things of God and turn away from everything the Bible calls sin. Decide to follow God's ways and to take a stand even when things are difficult.
 - Ask God for boldness and courage to tell others about your faith in Christ. Pray that God would use you to draw many others to Him.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 1 PETER 5:10

Walk in Grace and Holiness is a series of six materials for group discipleship designed to help believers understand and appreciate God's grace and holiness.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- God's Grace
- Saving Grace
- Enabling Grace
- God's Holiness
- A Holy Call
- A Holy Life



EVERY NATION
P R O D U C T I O N S