

# Community Group Study - Winter/Spring 2018

Philippians 1:1-7

Theme: Stories of Grace

## Introduction to Winter/Spring Study: Gospel Partnership

This semester we're going to be doing a study on "Gospel Partnership" that ties in with our preaching series on Philippians. Paul thanks the church in Philippians for their "partnership in the gospel" (1:5). Today, our relationships in the church are still built on this "gospel partnership." We'll explore the foundation of that partnership in the first two studies, the goal of the partnership for two studies, and then some practical help for relating to one another as gospel partners.

## Study Overview

Tonight we won't be doing a "normal" study, instead we'll be making time to hear stories about God's grace from one another. If the foundation of gospel partnership is grace it's important that we learn to see and celebrate this grace in our lives and in the lives of others. But when we share our stories of God's grace something supernatural happens: we are built together and knit together as we celebrate grace.

## Text

1 Paul and Timothy, servants[a] of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers[b]and deacons:[c] 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace,[d] both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

## Introduction

Grace has been defined simply defined as "God's unmerited favor." As sinners who need a savior we don't "deserve" anything from God other than judgment. And yet God extends grace to us through Christ in so many ways. Grace is the gap between what we deserve from God and what we receive from God in Christ.

## Questions

Tonight instead of a traditional study choose one big category to pursue and get as many people as possible to share an answer.

1. When did you first experience God's grace and come to understand the gospel of Jesus? (i.e. when did God save you and how)
2. After coming to know Christ have you had any powerful experiences of understanding God's grace to you?
3. In the last few weeks where have you seen God's grace in your life? (Can be in family, job, work, etc.)

### **Application**

- We don't just need a special night at Community Group to celebrate God's grace we can do this all the time. What are some ways we can do better at seeing and celebrating God's grace

### **Prayer**

- Spend time in prayer thanking God for the many stories of grace shared
- In light of God's grace bring any prayer requests in the group