

# IMAGINE



**Big Idea:** Imagine a place where people, changed by God's grace, gather together to pursue Jesus and offer their lives for the cause of His kingdom! Imagine a place where everyone matters, hope is abundant, grace is free, and generosity overflows. Imagine a place filled with men and women who share a commitment to go out into the ordinary spaces of life to live and love like Jesus. That place would be a taste of heaven on earth.

Imagine A Place Where . . . Grace is freely given

John 13:1-17

**IMAGINE : COMMUNITY - Jesus' Community extends grace freely.**

**Week 3**

### Capture our Attention-

- Give a simple definition of the word GRACE.  
When are you least likely to offer grace to others? . . .  
traffic jam    office meeting    family vacation    sloppy checker at the store    sickness
- Share your Take-A-Way from last Sunday's sermon. What insight or truth from the message did God allow to capture your attention? What are you doing to live out the implications of that truth?

### Enlighten our Mind-

- Jesus spent a large amount of His time in the final months of his ministry with His twelve disciples. John chapters 13-17 record the hours that Jesus and His disciples spent together just before Jesus was arrested and crucified. Skim over these chapters and note some of what they did and talked about during their time together.  
John 13  
John 14  
John 15  
John 16  
John 17

If you had been in that gathering what three words would you use to describe it?

- Divide into groups of three or four. Look closely at the story of Jesus washing His disciples' feet (John 13:1-30) Have groups answer one of these questions.
  - What is Jesus' attitude in this situation?
  - What are the disciples learning?
  - What is the meaning of the tradition of washing feet of guests?
  - How many of the disciples are at this gathering?

3. What is Jesus assured of ("know") as He prepares to offer grace to His disciples (vss. 1, 3, 11)?

In what aspects is it easier to offer grace to others when you are confident in your identity in Christ? How does insecurity weaken our expression of grace toward others?

4. All twelve of the apostles received this grace from Jesus. We see how Peter responded. Why did Peter respond to Jesus like he did? John doesn't mention Judas' reaction... How do you think Judas might have reacted?

Why is it hard for some to receive grace when it is extended to them?

5. What is Jesus trying to teach the disciples in verses 12-17? Read Luke 22:24-27 to see what Luke says was happening in the upper room gathering.

How does "trying to be the greatest" keep you from offering grace to each other?

#### Imagine a Place where Grace is Freely Given-

#### Bringing Lesson to Life.

- a. Grace thrives best in a gospel-centered Small group. How have you experienced God's grace in the context of this small group of friends?
- b. Grace flows from a strong confidence in God and assurance of your relationship with God. List below some statements of confident assurance about who you are in Christ. What doubts in your mind sometimes block the free flow of grace toward others?
- c. Grace loves everyone. Ask Jesus to open your eyes to ways you can meet the needs of people in your group. Ask Jesus to increase your ability to spread hope to people who are far from God.

*How will you spread grace by practicing one of the five habits of Jesus' Life this week?*

1. **Bless** one person each day by showing them God's love,
2. **Eat** with three people each week,
- 3 & 4. **Listen** to and **Learn** from Jesus each week,
5. **Share** the insight you learn with three people each week.

- d. Grace multiplies. Identify one need in your group that you can help meet this week! As a group demonstrate God's love to someone who is in need in the community around you. Do a "Pay-It-Forward" act of grace someplace this week and pray that God multiplies it in others.

**Pray an "Imagine" prayer for your group, neighborhood and city to find their way back to God.**