

GRACE
OF GOD
AND
FLAWS
OF MEN

ANAND MAHADEVAN

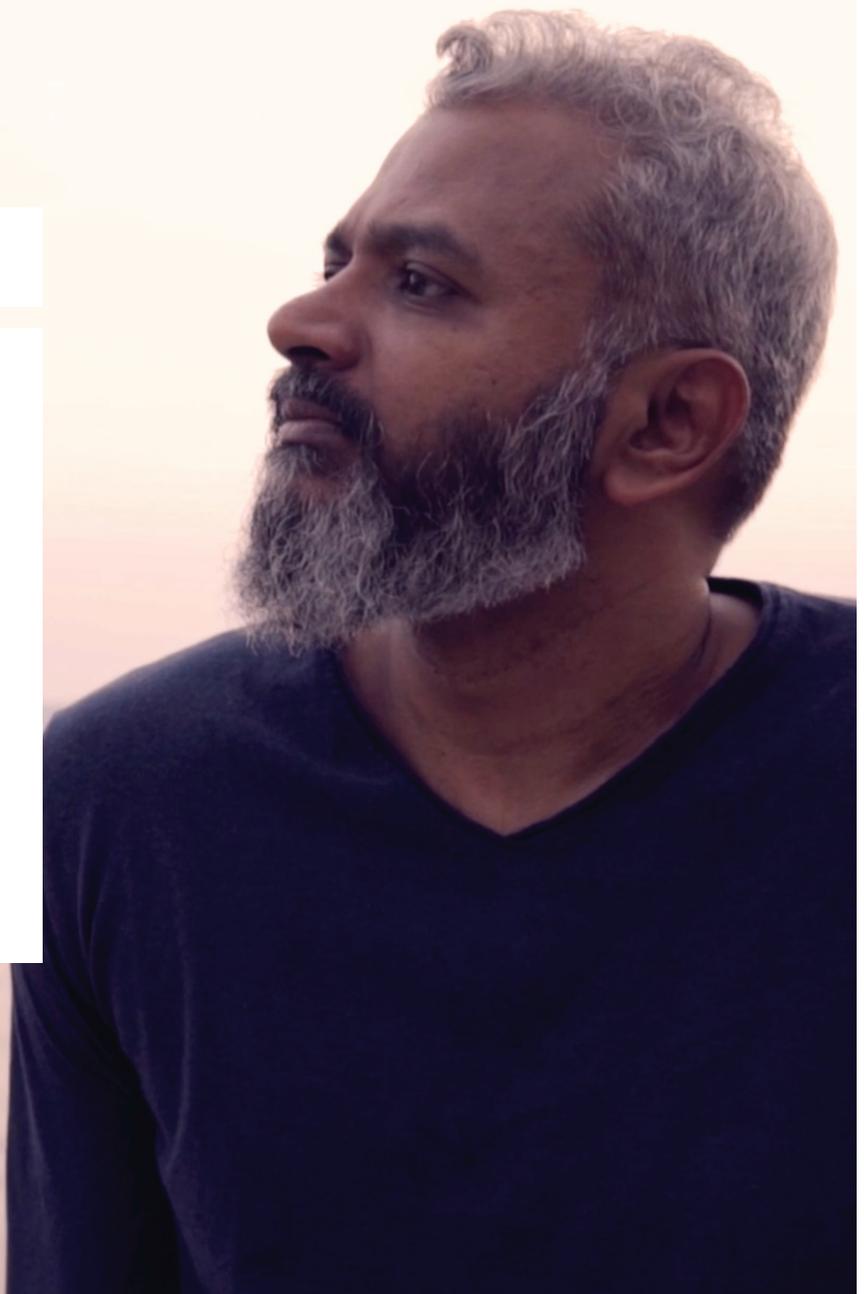
PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

THIS PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE IS INTENDED FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND TO HELP FACILITATE GROUP DISCUSSION. IF YOU ARE LEADING A GROUP, TAKE THE TIME TO WATCH THE VIDEO AND READ OVER THE GUIDE BEFORE YOUR MEETING AND PREPARE SOME PERSONAL EXAMPLES TO ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION. REMEMBER TO PRINT OUT OR EMAIL A COPY OF THIS PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE TO EVERYONE IN YOUR GROUP.

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob stand towering among Old Testament leaders. They have always been celebrated for their faith, obedience and accomplishments. But to only see their success, without also seeing their flaws, would alter the central message of the Bible—men are sinners and it is the grace of God that saves and transforms them through Christ Jesus. In this Bible study based on his book, Anand Mahadevan takes a fresh, true perspective on the lives of these three heroes and their many failures that will leave you captivated by the beauty, patience and transforming power of God's grace.

ABOUT ANAND MAHADEVAN

Anand Mahadevan is Lead Planter of New City Church in Mumbai whose vision is to help more professionals in the city love Jesus more. Anand has been a business journalist for over 20 years. He has served in senior leadership roles with several publication companies, including *Businessworld*, *Outlook Business*, and presently works with *The Economic Times*. He is bi-vocational and splits his time between his “work ministry” in media and his “church ministry” at New City Church Mumbai. He is the author of *Grace of God and Flaws of Men*. Anand and his wife, Ajitha, have two children.



SESSION ONE: ABRAHAM

SESSION BIG IDEA
Grace will not stop with mere forgiveness. Grace will also transform us. But grace-driven transformation is a slow and steady process.

WATCH

SESSION 1: ABRAHAM
(9 MINUTES)

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO

Why did God choose to reveal Himself to the world as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

[Dotted box for notes]

What is the central theme God is communicating to us?

[Dotted box for notes]

What are three things to remember about the process of transformation?

[Dotted box for notes]

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

EXODUS 3:15

Notes

[Large dotted box for Bible study notes]

PERSONAL REFLECTION

How do we overestimate our sinfulness?

[Dotted box for reflection]

How do we underestimate our sinfulness?

[Dotted box for reflection]

How do both of the above lead us away from enjoying God's grace?

[Dotted box for reflection]

Can you think of instances where worship energised you in God's grace?

[Dotted box for reflection]

How can you commit yourself to enjoy more worship so you can enjoy more transformation?

[Dotted box for reflection]

APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

Read: Read chapters 1–7 of *Grace of God and Flaws of Men* by Anand Mahadevan.

Reflect: Reflect on your faith journey and consider when sin reigned darkest in your life and how grace was shining brightest. Write down a prayer of gratitude and praise to God.

Worship: Find a quiet place to call upon the name of the Lord in worship. Read or sing a song of praise. Make a commitment to attend corporate worship and give a word of encouragement to another Christ follower.

SESSION TWO: JESUS & ABRAHAM

SESSION BIG IDEA
The grace of God is not an afterthought to accomplish what the Law couldn't. In fact, the grace of God was given to humans even before the Law came through Moses.

WATCH

SESSION 2: JESUS AND ABRAHAM
(7 MINUTES)

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO

How does Galatians 3:23 explain the idea of the Law and the Gospel?

[Dotted box for notes]

_____ can only change our behavior, but _____ works on our hearts.

How do we enjoy and appropriate grace?

[Dotted box for notes]

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

JOHN 8:56; GALATIANS 3:8, 17, 23

Notes

[Dotted box for notes]

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Can you think of situations where you have used rules or the law to motivate yourself?

[Dotted box for reflection]

Can you think of situations where God's grace has motivated you to obedience?

[Dotted box for reflection]

Which of the two approaches from above was more joyful and transforming? Why?

[Dotted box for reflection]

In the session, we saw that the Gospel gives us the freedom to choose and the power to make right choices. **How does the Gospel give us the power to make the right choices?**

[Dotted box for reflection]

APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

Read: Re-read chapter 5 of *Grace of God and Flaws of Men* by Anand Mahadevan.

Write: Take ten minutes to write out occasions when God's grace has motivated you to obedience. Thank God for the rules He has put in place to protect you. Thank Him for the freedom to choose and the power to make the right choices.

Memorize: Commit Galatians 3:23 to memory. Write it on a notecard or create a background for your phone with the verse. Recite it to yourself to remind you that grace empowers you to overcome the power of sin in your life.

SESSION THREE: ISAAC

SESSION BIG IDEA
Our ongoing sinful patterns do not point to the inadequacy of God's grace for our sanctification. Rather, our sins tell us that we need to grow in enjoying and appropriating God's grace.

WATCH

SESSION 3: ISAAC (7 MINUTES)

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO

How did God communicate His grace to Isaac before Isaac sinned?

[Dotted box for notes]

Why does God sometimes allow us to fall into our sin? As we cling to and believe in Christ Jesus, the Son of God, what does the grace of God do?

[Dotted box for notes]

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

GENESIS 26:3

Notes

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PERSONAL REFLECTION

Every time we repent and ask God's forgiveness, do we also deeply understand what it cost God to forgive us? Could God ever forgive us apart from the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus? Why not?

[Dotted box for reflection]

Does God reject and renounce us when we sin? How can God use even our sins to help us repent and believe in Christ Jesus more?

[Dotted box for reflection]

Who is more committed to your transformation? You? Or God?

[Dotted box for reflection]

What hope does this offer you in your journey of being transformed?

[Dotted box for reflection]

APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

Read: Read chapters 8–10 of *Grace of God and Flaws of Men* by Anand Mahadevan.

Pray: When you pray this week, thank God for His provision in the sacrifice of Christ Jesus for your sins. Ask God to empower you to overcome repeated sins. Thank God for His grace that goes beyond forgiveness and changed your heart.

Enjoy: Spend time this week enjoying Jesus through a daily time of reading Scripture and through prayer. Spend time with other believers in your local church community. Tell someone about what Jesus has done in your life.

SESSION FOUR: JACOB

SESSION BIG IDEA
Anything we love more than we love God is an idol in our heart. However fiercely we pursue them, idols will always elude us. We can never get hold of our idols, but God gives Himself fully to us.

WATCH

SESSION 4: JACOB (7 MINUTES)

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO

What three lessons can we learn from Jacob's life?

What is the importance of realizing that when Jacob wrestled with God, Jacob won?

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

GENESIS 32

Notes

PERSONAL REFLECTION

What idols have you pursued in the past? Are there things that you now love more than you love God?

When has an idol failed you? Did you begin the equally unfulfilling pursuit of another idol? What did you learn from this experience?

How did Jacob wrestle with God and win? What does this tell you about God's love for you and His commitment to transform you?

APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

Read: Read chapters 11–15 of *Grace of God and Flaws of Men* by Anand Mahadevan.

Write: What idols do you have in your life today? Write them down on a sheet of paper and name them out loud. Then tear up the list. On another paper or notecard, write down how God's grace has transformed you and meditate on it during the week.

Pray: When you pray this week, ask God for forgiveness for the times you put something or someone else above Him. Ask for the power to choose daily to follow Him. Thank God for making Himself fully available to you through Jesus Christ and His commitment to transform you.

SESSION FIVE: GRACE COMPLETE

SESSION BIG IDEA
Grace is not mere forgiveness. Grace is not mere forgiveness and transformation. Grace is forgiveness plus transformation plus empowerment for mission.

WATCH

SESSION 5: GRACE COMPLETE
(7 MINUTES)

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO

Grace = Forgiveness + _____ + _____

What was the purpose for God to lead His chosen nation into four hundred years of slavery?

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When is grace complete?

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BIBLE STUDY NOTES

GENESIS 15:12; EXODUS 9:16; EPHESIANS 3:2; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:10

Notes

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PERSONAL REFLECTION

How have we underestimated the full and complete work of grace in our lives?

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Why did God allow His chosen nation Israel to suffer in Egypt for four hundred years? How can this help us deal with our own sufferings?

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How can we be better witnesses to others when we walk through pain, disappointment, and suffering?

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In our daily lives, how can grace empower us for mission?

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APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

Read: Read chapter 16 of *Grace of God and Flaws of Men* by Anand Mahadevan.

Memorize: Commit 1 Corinthians 15:10 to memory. Write it on a notecard or create a background for your phone with the verse. Recite it to yourself to remind you to experience all three expressions of grace: forgiveness, transformation, and call to mission.

Share: Tell someone this week about the grace of God and the life Jesus offers us if we follow Him. Tell them about the true, rich, beautiful and empowering meaning of grace as He has shown it in your own life.