

## Discussion Questions for Sermon on May 8, 2016

### Core Beliefs: The Grace of God

1. As a child, how did you view God (what did you think He was like)? How about when you were a teenager? An adult?

2. A.W. Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." Do you agree or disagree with Tozer? Explain your answer.

Read Psalm 103:8 and Isaiah 30:18

3. What do you learn about God's character in these verses? If you were to give a definition or explanation of "the grace of God" how would you define it in your own words?

4. In the sermon, Pastor Greg said God's grace is "His love in action". Read Romans 5:6-9; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Hebrews 4:16 In what ways do these verses show God's love in action (His grace)?

5. How have you personally experienced the grace of God? Be specific.

6. According to Romans 5:1-2, how are we saved? According to Colossians 2:6-7, how are we to continue to live the Christian life once we are saved?

7. How would you know if you are living your Christian life by faith or by your own efforts alone? What would be some indicators?

8. David Mathis, in Habits of Grace, says "God's regular channels of grace are his word, his ear, and his people. So often He showers His people with unexpected favor. But typically the grace that sends our roots deepest, truly grows us up in Christ, and produces lasting spiritual maturity, streams from the ordinary and unspectacular paths of fellowship, prayer, and Bible intake in its many forms."

Describe a time when you received God's grace and power through one of those means of grace (The Bible, prayer, fellowship). Be specific.

9. Which of the three means of grace (these are not the only means of grace!) do you find you more regularly participate? Which of the means of grace takes more effort for you?

10. What is one thing you could do to more regularly put yourself in the paths of these means of Grace? Be specific.

11. What are some things that can affect our experience of God's grace and power or hinder us from more fully experiencing it? Read 1 Peter 5:5-6 for one idea on this.