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*Gracious*  
S p a c e

Bear (put up) with  
One Another

## Introduction

Welcome to the “*Gracious Space*” Study Series produced for FBC in conjunction with our 2019 Fall Sermon Series.

This 8 week study can be done in a small group, as couples, or as an individual reflection, and is best done in order along with the Sunday sermons... but doesn't have to be.

You will notice throughout this guide where we suggest a “RESOURCE.” To find these additional resources, you will need to use your computer, tablet, or smart phone, go to the church website [www.fbcpg.ca](http://www.fbcpg.ca) and click on the “Gracious Space” logo.

If you are leading a group it is important that you pre-read the guide in order to properly manage time. It is best not to rush through any one question, allowing for multiple people to give their perspectives.

This study is anywhere from 30mins to 2 hours.

We pray you will enjoy the journey into *Gracious Space*...

Wayne & David

## Gracious Space: Bear (put up) With One Another

Before beginning, it could be a good idea to take some time to simply pray and meditate in order to open your heart and mind to the Spirit...

at least 5 minutes, but more is better. :-)

You may wish to be mindful of the stressors and pressures that are competing for your attention.

Take some deep breaths, being aware of the air coming in through your nose and out through your mouth.

Allow your worries to worry about themselves for now, while you become present and ready in *this* moment.

### **RESOURCE: Psalm 46 Meditation (7mins)**

Continue now, being present and giving space for yourself, and others, to journey into the Father's Words, the Spirit's Presence, and the love, grace, and passion of the Son.

*Gracious Space: Bear (put up) With One Another*

What does 'put up with' one another mean to you?

Western culture right now is huge on  
emphasizing *tolerance*.

How well do you think our culture is  
'putting up' with one another?

Think ethnically. Think social classes. Think politics.

*Gracious Space: Bear (put up) With One Another*

At FBC we've been teaching that we are called to participate with God in His restoration of our broken world. In carrying out this mission, we are bound to encounter some differences that cause some disunity.

How well do you think your “non-Christian” friends or family would rate the church on its *unity*?

What about your Christian friends and family?

How well do you think the world-wide church is doing with unity?  
How well is *FBC* doing with ‘putting up’ with one another?

*Gracious Space: Bear (put up) With One Another*



Scripture:  
Read Colossians 3:1-17

If you are able, look at Colossians 3:13 in several different translations.

“Bear with each other”  
has been the most popular way to translate this section,  
but alternatives include  
“Make allowance for each other’s faults,”  
“Put up with each other,”  
and  
“Be tolerant with one another.”

Which wording speaks most clearly to you?  
Why?

*Gracious Space: Bear (put up) With One Another*



Why is it easier to put up with major differences or odd choices from those who are young?

What implications does this have for how we react to those who are young in the faith?

Do Christians all grow or mature at the same rate, in the same areas of their lives and faith?

Maybe think of some examples.

*Gracious Space: Bear (put up) With One Another*

Scripture:

Re-read Colossians 3:12-14

How do the “clothes” of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, & love fit with the idea of bearing with, or putting up with, others?

Imagine putting on the “clothes” one item at a time.

Which one of them should you start with?  
(Explain why...if it isn't embarrassing)

Think of someone you often need to 'put up with'.  
(Be careful about using names here)

Which piece of “clothing” would be most useful as you try to bear with that person?

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Scripture:

Read Ephesians 4:1-2

(try reading aloud even if you're alone)

In what ways is this like the Colossians scripture?

What different thoughts is the Apostle Paul drawing out here?

In verse 1 Paul uses the word *parakaleó* (par-ak-al-eh'-o).

He's saying,

“I urge you...” or “I beseech you..” or “I beg you...!”

What's driving Paul's urgency or passion here?

(Hint: you may need to read chapter 3)

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Scripture:

Read Romans 15:1-2

This is the third place where the Apostle Paul gives “bear with” instructions. What else can we learn from this verse?

Try to think back to week 1 (from Romans 14),  
how does reminding the strong to  
“bear with the failings of the weak” in chapter 15,  
fit with what Paul wrote earlier?

The final questions on the next page may not have clear answers. It is REALLY important to take time to ponder and/or discuss them humbly and prayerfully.

It may be a good idea to journal your answers or think about them over the course of a few days.

## Gracious Space: Bear (put up) With One Another

Do you know anyone 'weak in the faith' that you don't get along with?

Do *they* think they are weak in the faith?

How do we know *who* is the 'weak one' in disagreements over what the Bible teaches?

How can fostering gracious space help in areas of disagreement?

What's scary about a gracious space. Is it dangerous in some ways?

Can you think of any examples of where Jesus fostered a space that allowed for people to disagree with him?

Reflect or discuss what non-believers might think about a Christianity that has trouble 'bearing with' one another.

## Gracious Space



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

Hebrew 4:16



This booklet was produced and written by pastors Wayne and David in conjunction with the 2019 Fall Sermon Series: *Gracious Space*, at First Baptist Church Prince George, BC.