

III

Gracious
S p a c e

A Place for CHE

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 through this guide where we suggest an optional “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 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

Taking some time to “be still” and recognize God is with you,
around you, before you and after you,
positions your heart and mind to receive the
wisdom and discernment of the Spirit.

Now is the time to lessen the distractions, to recognize the
pressures that lay heavy on your mind can wait for tomorrow.
Take some deep breaths, 2 seconds in through the nose,
and 5 seconds out through the mouth.
Sense your body relaxing and becoming present and ready in
this moment as you prepare to hear God speak.

RESOURCE: Psalm 46 Meditation (7mins)

Continue now, 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: A Place for Curiosity, Humility & Empathy

The themes of this week are *Curiosity*, *Humility* & *Empathy*.

Think about or discuss what these terms mean to you.

Curiosity - inquisitive interest in others' concerns

Humility - understanding the proper level of ones
significance

Empathy - being sensitive to the feelings, thoughts,
and experiences of another

What are some stories from your life that could be examples of each of these themes?

Gracious Space: A Place for Curiosity, Humility & Empathy

At FBC we believe 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 will require difficult conversations.

Think or discuss some really *unhealthy* conversations
you've had in the past?

If appropriate, think about some unhealthy disagreements
you've been a part of or witnessed in the *church*.

Compare the differences in how difficult conversations are dealt
with at *work* versus the *church*. Are there any?
(school vs church, home vs church, etc.)



Scripture:
Read Philippians 2:1-18

Do you see the theme of humility in this scripture?

What about curiosity?

(If you're having trouble with this one,
maybe check the definition again for a hint)

And lastly, where do you see the theme
of *empathy* in this scripture ?

The Apostle Paul most likely wrote this letter to the church in Philippi from a prison in Rome.

He wrote to thank and encourage the Philippian church, but also to address some issues he had heard about.

What do you think may be Paul's reason or reasons for stressing unity to the Philippian church?

What false teaching was Paul concerned about when writing to the Philippians?

(you may wish to check out Philippians 3:2-21 or 4:2-3)

The following question may be uncomfortable. So only share or think about your answers if you feel safe to do so.

When was a time in your life that you wish you could go back and do over?

(Maybe it was a big fight you had with a friend or loved one)

If you were to insert *curiosity* into your story,
how might it have changed the way
you perceived the situation?

If you were to insert *humility* into your story,
how might it have changed the way people acted?

If you were to insert *empathy* into your story,
how might have things turned out differently?

Gracious Space: A Place for Curiosity, Humility & Empathy

Gracious Space is not just about creating space for others,
but also for yourself!

You may wish to take some time right now
as a group or as an individual
to pray and talk to God about your stories.

Visualize His grace pouring into your story
and being soaked up by your past failures.

Recognize the *gracious* space Jesus has created
in order to foster a relationship with you and me.

Scripture:

Read these verses in multiple translations

Romans 12:3; Colossians 4:6

Think back to last session. What role do conversations have in 'putting up with' one another.

What would a *Colossians 4:6* conversation look like?

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: A Place for Curiosity, Humility & Empathy

How does curiosity, humility & empathy help with connection and unity, even in our differences?

RESOURCE: Brené Brown on empathy (3mins)

How do these themes foster “gracious space” that allows for differences in what we believe about the Bible?

What could be some examples of gracious space with people in *your life*?

What could be some examples of gracious space here at *First Baptist Church*?

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.