

THE MAGNIFICENT

grace

OF GOD

SESSION EIGHT: ASSISTED BY GRACE

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:14-16

connect Open your group time by creating an environment in which you may begin to develop a community of connection. Get to know one another through sharing prayer requests and experiences that provide members with an opportunity to engage.

CONNECTING IN PRAYER: Begin your time together with prayer and praise.

CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER: In this session, Dr. Evans speaks of having a direct line to God when we need assistance through our mediator, who is Jesus Christ. If you had a direct line to one person of power and influence who would it be and what would you ask for?

grow Watch the DVD for Session 8 now. Use the space below to record your thoughts, key points and questions you would like to either remember or discuss.

GROWTH THROUGH UNDERSTANDING: What a blessing it is to know that we are not left alone to live this life. Jesus told his disciples, "I will be with you, even until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). Jesus' promise to accompany us through life comes with an all-access pass to God the Father through the Throne of Grace. This pass allows us to appeal to God's sovereign rule when we need assistance.

The Scripture calls us to "draw near with confidence...so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in the time of need." However, we cannot draw near to access the assistance of the Throne of Grace without the covering of Jesus Christ who is referred to as our High Priest. A High Priest was the highest mediator between man and God in the Old Testament. The High Priest was given access that normal men did not have in order to speak with God the Father on behalf of the people. In the same way, we have a high priest in Jesus Christ who gives us the ability to mediate our needs to God the Father. The good news is that the glory and utility of Jesus, our high priest, far outweighs that of the typical

Transformational grace is demonstrated by a change in character, attitude and conduct

high priest of the Old Testament (Hebrews 7:26-28). Jesus operates via two natures to maximize His benefit to us on the Throne of Grace; because of His divine nature, He is able to make an attornment with His life once and for all. (Romans 6:10). Yet His human nature enables Him to have empathy towards man because He has experienced all the temptation, loneliness, or sadness that we could ever feel. This puts Jesus Christ in the prime position to connect us to His divine power when we are in need. Not only does He have the power to fix our problem, but He is also able to key in the Father to our feelings when we suffer. In Christ and by grace we can now enter the throne room boldly knowing that we have divine help in our time of need.

NOTES

GROWTH THROUGH DISCUSSION: As you dive into the heart of Dr. Evans' teaching, utilize the following questions to generate discussion among your group.

1. What does it say about the character of God that He desires to know you and understand how you feel? How should your understanding of Christ's divine and human nature influence your relationship with Him?
2. We are told to draw near to the Throne of Grace with confidence or boldness, yet we often do not bring our problems to God. If we do we do not walk in the confidence afforded to us by Jesus Christ, why is this?
3. Have you ever sought after assistance from someone other than God when facing a problem? What was the result? What did you learn during that situation that can help someone else?
4. Is this a current "time of need" in your life? Are you currently battling something that requires the assistance of the Throne of Grace? If you are willing, share this with your group and take time to approach God with confidence knowing that he is able to do more than you can imagine.

serve

Now is the time to apply the wisdom of what you have learned to your life, as you express the depth of your relationship with God through service to Him and others.

SERVING GOD: Now that you fully understand the assistance afforded to you by grace have you thanked God for being your help in a time of need? Write a list of things you can thank God for, past present or future. Spend some time in prayer praising Him for His goodness.

SERVING OTHERS: Have you ever considered what it might be like if you had to carry the burden of life on your own? In this session Dr. Evans describes the experience of carrying luggage with and without wheels; even though both may carry the same weight. Depending on what type of assistance you have, it can feel much lighter. Ask God to show you someone whom you can assist this week; whether it is a physical, emotional or spiritual burden reach out to them to help bear the weight.

THE DAILY

Grace Guide

DAY ONE

MEDITATE: Read Hebrews 4:15

"For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."

MOVE: This scripture reminds us that we have an empathetic high priest who knows what we feel: the good, the bad and the ugly. Is there something within you that you feel no one can understand? Take time today to pray and confess to the One who knows exactly what you are going through, that is, Jesus Christ our High Priest.

DAY THREE

MEDITATE: Read 1 Thessalonians

5:16-18 "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus

MOVE: In order to access the Throne of Grace mentioned in session 8, the scriptures say "we must draw near" (Hebrews 4:16). We draw near to God through consistent and heartfelt prayers. The scripture above tells us to pray without ceasing; while you must carry on the typical activities of the day, the scripture is telling us to be in a continual state of prayerfulness. In other words prayerfulness should be our default throughout the day. This is the day for you to practice drawing near to the Lord by practicing continual prayer: you can be intentional about praying to God on your daily commute, while at work, cooking dinner, etc.

Live out God's Kingdom principles here on earth by putting feet to your faith. Over the next 5 days, utilize the Daily Grace Guide to help you meditate on God's word.

DAY FOUR

MEDITATE: Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-

5 "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,"

MOVE: Session 8 focuses on the assistance we receive through the Throne of Grace on behalf of our relationship with Christ. We often forget that we have a supernatural power to benefit us in our spiritual battles. The passage above reminds us that because of our access to the Lord we are "mighty in God," and we can use that might to fight against spiritual warfare. In what ways do you need to be reminded that you are mighty in God? Knowing that you are empowered to do so, what strongholds do you need to pull down?

DAY TWO

MEDITATE: Read John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

MOVE: In session 8, we were reminded that our access to God's rule is directly related to our connection to our high priest Jesus Christ. Consider what Jesus spoke in the scripture above, "Apart from me you can do nothing." What have you been trying to accomplish in your life without plugging into the power source that is Jesus Christ? Today seek to give this over to the Lord.

DAY FIVE

MEDITATE: Read 2 Peter 1:3 "Seeing

that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence."

MOVE: Notice that Peter mentions that God has already granted us everything pertaining to life and godliness. This means that we already have access to all that we need through Jesus Christ, yet so many of us do not experience the fullness of our access to God's grace. How does knowing that we already have from God assistance for difficulties, even before they happen, affect your understanding of your current circumstance? If you already have all you need concerning life and godliness are you currently utilizing what God has given you? Is it evident in your life?