

PRAYER: AWE & INTIMACY
Discussion Guide 6, Week of Feb 17

For Small Groups: Did you Listen for God's Voice last week? Share any impressions or thoughts you felt might be God speaking to you.

INTIMACY: GRACE SERMON SUMMARY

As believers, we are invited to experience grace when we bring our sins to God in prayer. Every sin is an opportunity to receive grace (Rom. 5:20b) if we consider two things:

1. **The seriousness of sin.** We have to recognize and acknowledge sin, and understand how offensive it is to God and what it cost Him. (Rom. 5:6, John 16:8)
 - Ask God: Are there any sins You want to address? How is it offensive to You? How is it hurtful to others?
2. **The sufficiency of Jesus.** We have to be confident that Jesus is enough, that forgiveness is not based on me or what I do. (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 1:9, Rom. 8:15-16)

A litmus test to how well we experience forgiveness and grace is our ability to forgive others (Matthew 6:12; 14-15).

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. What first comes to mind for you when you hear the words, "sin", "confession," and "repentance"?

2. Do you think most Christians regularly acknowledge their sin and bring it to God in a meaningful way? Why or why not?

3. Timothy Keller cites theologian John Stott in saying: *Many Christians routinely confess their sins. Yet most people do not find that those confessions change them. They usually go right back to the same bad patterns of attitude and behavior again and again ... We must be inwardly grieved and appalled enough by a sin - even as we frame the whole process with the knowledge of our acceptance in Christ - that it loses its hold over us.* (p.212)

How do you think confessing sin, and grasping its seriousness, could help us change so that we don't keep repeating the same patterns of sin? How could that loosen its hold on us?

4. What makes the sufficiency of Jesus so amazing? Why do you think it's so hard even for Christians to really believe it? What happens when we doubt it? What happens when we really, fully, grasp that Jesus is enough?
5. How do you think receiving grace and forgiveness for your sin could affect the intimacy of prayer for you? How would it help you feel God's love and experience His presence in greater ways?
6. Our challenge this week is to **Bring Your Sins to God**. How do you feel about this challenge? What do you hope for?
7. How have you been growing in forgiving others, or in any other areas of sin? Looking back, where do you see growth? In what areas do you recognize the need for more growth?
 - Try to be specific in identifying and acknowledging sin; share as much as you are comfortable sharing.
 - Pray for yourselves and for one another, thanking God for His grace and sufficiency.