

**FOUND**  
**WEEK 1 DISCUSSION GUIDE**  
**"EXPERIENCE GRACE"**

**READ**

This week we started a new series titled "Found". Through this series we will be looking at what Jesus does in the life of one person. Jesus changed everything for him and can do the same for us.

**Mark 1:16-18**

*As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people. At once they left their nets and followed him."*

We see Jesus extend grace, unmerited favor here to Simon as he calls him to be a disciple. Disciple is a word that means student, follower, pupil, learner. Simon was a fisherman, in the family business, just a regular guy. Jesus was a Rabbi, at that time this was a title given to people who were considered masters of the Torah, this was a title of great respect which literally meant "my master" or "great one".

Not only did Simon know Jesus as a rabbi but John the Baptist had said Jesus was the Messiah. This invitation would have been a great honor for Simon, something he did not deserve and had not earned in any way. Rabbis, especially well known and respected rabbis did not just ask anyone to follow them, they had to see something special in you. From what we know about Simon there wasn't anything exceptional about him

Jesus invited him anyway, that was an act of grace, unmerited favor. The core leadership of Jesus's movement, who become known as the apostles were a group of nobody's like Simon. But Jesus saw something in them that no one else did. Jesus saw so much in Simon that he gave him the nickname of Peter, which means "Rock".

**Matthew 16:18-19**

*"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

Sadly, during the time that Peter is with Jesus he does not live up to this name. He hits rock bottom when Jesus is arrested. During the trial Peter stays around, close enough to hear what is going on but far enough not to get involved.

A few people recognize him as being a friend of Jesus and three times Peter denies it. After the third time Peter denied Jesus "...he went outside and wept bitterly" (Matthew 26:75). It was a cry of self-loathing. Peter had promised Jesus that he would stay with him to the end, even die if he had to, but he had not stayed true to his promise.

After Jesus's death and resurrection, Jesus shows up where Peter is fishing in Galilee. At that point everyone thinks the movement is over so Peter goes back to what he knows – the family business. When Jesus shows up Peter is so excited he jumps out of a boat and swims to shore in his clothes.

### **John 21:15**

*When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."*

Jesus goes on to ask Peter two more times if he loves him; each time Peter responds yes, Jesus says feed my sheep. Jesus referred to his movement as his sheep. Jesus asks him one time for each time Peter denied him, in this way he is giving him a second chance to lead his movement. This is a huge act of grace, Peter gets the chance to make it right.

Jesus came to show us what grace looks like. And he gave his life so we can experience it and live in it every day.

### **DISCUSS**

Just for fun share about a time you received grace, undeserved favor, as a child?

Think about a time when you extended grace to someone. What did that look like and how did they respond?

Do you find it easier or more difficult to extend grace to yourself or others? Why do you think this is?

Reflect on a time when you experienced God's grace in your life. Share this with your group.

Does experiencing God's grace make it easier for you extend grace to others? If so, why do you think this is?

Is there someone in your life who you need to extend grace to? What would that look like?

What is one step you can take this week to surrender to God's grace and share this with others?

### **PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP**

Pray that we would experience the life changing grace that Jesus offers and that this would be reflected in the way we live and love others.

### **PRAY FOR FCC**

Pray that FCC would be a place where people can experience grace.

### **PRAY FOR OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS**

Going global or going local; no matter where we are, we can pray for the outpouring of Jesus' s loving transformation to occur, for whomever our neighbor may be. Please lift in prayer, each one of us who wishes to profess the faith we have found in Christ and how to best go about sharing that love in practical ways. It may be a blessing in Jesus name for a physical neighbor, friend or complete stranger, to experience God's delight in the person they are or do something for someone as the hands and feet of Jesus without saying a word out loud. May Jesus open our eyes to how that looks in each of our lives and may He slow us down enough to see those around us.