



LESSON 4 // GROW IN GRACE—PART 1

Big Idea: Good relationships are built on and with grace. We can't be loving without being gracious, just as God has been gracious to us. Gracious people are grounded in Christ; humble and grateful; seek to please God; acknowledge their sins, weaknesses and failures; quickly forgive others and give them a way back from their failures; bear with the weaknesses of others and extend mercy to them.

Ephesians 4:2, 32 (NIV) *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ...³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

Start Talking:

Describe a time when someone showed extraordinary compassion or mercy to you, perhaps in a time of weakness or failure. How did this impact your life?

Start Thinking:

Read Ephesians 4:2; James 4:6. Why is it so important to be humble in order to be gracious to others? What happens in our relationships when we are prideful instead of humble?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10. How does acknowledging our own sins, weaknesses and failures help us relate better to others in their struggles?

Read Ephesians 4:32. What does it mean to “give people a way back from their failures”? How is this connected to forgiving them?

Read Luke 6:36. How has God been merciful to you? What difference should this make in your relationships?

Start Praying:

Pray that you will respond to God's amazing forgiveness and mercy toward you with greater forgiveness and mercy toward others.

Start Doing:

Memorize 2 Peter 3:18: “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen!”

Find at least one practical way you can be gracious to someone you know and make that a priority this week. A gracious word, a generous gift, help with a practical need, spending time listening and praying, communicating forgiveness and mercy are some of the ways we can extend grace in tangible ways—and grow in God's grace as we are gracious to others!