



LESSON 5 // GROW IN GRACE—PART 2

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 compassionate, kind and generous. They diligently guard against prejudice and judgment toward others. They are easily entreated and quick to share. They focus on principles, not rules. They believe and work for the best in themselves, others and their work and influence.

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

Start Talking:

How might being gracious in your everyday interactions help others see the difference Jesus has made in your life? If you can, share an example when you may have experienced this.

Start Thinking:

Read 2 Samuel 9:1-13. How does David's compassion toward Mephibosheth speak to you about being compassionate and kind to others who are different, hurting or struggling?

How can simple generosity to others in need express God's grace in tangible ways? How do you see this at work in the story of David and Mephibosheth?

Read Proverbs 4:23 and Matthew 7:1-5. How can you guard your heart against prejudice and judgment toward others? What difference should this make in how you treat them?

What does it mean to "focus on principles, not rules" in your relationships and interactions with others? How does this express grace to them?

Start Praying:

Pray that you will continue to grow in God's grace and in your capacity to treat others graciously—with Christ-like compassion and kindness.

Start Doing:

Look for ways you can be generous to someone in need this week. Perhaps you can invite and treat them to a meal with a focus on listening to how they are doing and how you can pray for them. Be creative and see how God can use you to encourage others who may be struggling!