

DISCUSSION:

Discuss the question cluster below

(As much or as little as works for your group and in any order you like)

Feel free to break off into smaller groups if it helps you share more personally

We're continuing a sermon series from the first half of the book of Ephesians called, "Grace and Peace" In it we're looking at the Apostle Paul's letter, written as a reminder to a church helped plant (in Ephesus) about the heart of the faith, so the church could press on it. Paul's summary of the heart of the faith comes out in the opening verses of chapter. It's (v.2) "Grace and Peace." That's the heart of the faith Paul wants them to remember. Our hope is that through this series we would have more of both in our lives *and* that we would show more of both to those around us.

I. **This week, we looked at Eph. 1:15-23 and what it had to show us about how the experience and the power of grace. We saw that grace is something God means for us to experience, not just know about and that the experience of grace (like grace itself) is a gift we receive; not something we work for. Finally the text showed us the part of our experience of grace comes from our understanding something of its unparalleled power. This power rests in Jesus' power over all things, as shown through his death and resurrection.**

- A. What connected with you from the sermon or from the passage?
- B. Is grace (*the totally undeserved, overflowing kindness of God to you just because he chooses to be kind to you*) something you experience in your life or does it feel more like a cold, distant truth?
 - 1. *Share about a time you remember receiving grace or showing it and what that felt like.*
 - 2. *If you think about that moment, what would you do differently in an area of your life where you're frustrated or disappointed with yourself or someone else?*
- C. Who would you want to ask for more an experience of grace for in your life?
 - 1. *What grace would you want them to know?*
- D. If Jesus' power really is beyond the reach of any other power – how does that change the way you look at something challenging you're facing right now?
 - 1. *What freedom does his power give you to face that situation?*