

# Cultivate Reflection Guide

**Different: A Different Grace**  
Pastor Matt Brown | October 8-9, 2022

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**NEW SERIES:** It can be hard to stand up for what's different, so if we want to live differently, we need to see life through a new lens. The apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians is a reminder and a challenge to us that we live differently because we belong to Jesus.

Our Reflection Guide is a tool to help you grow spiritually wise, relationally kind and emotionally healthy. Use it to start a REAL conversation in community or to cultivate God's word into your life through personal bible study. Choose the questions that most encourage you to reflect and respond to what we're learning. Pair it with your bible, a journal or any resource that helps you learn. *It's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you!*

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**Read:** [Ephesians Chapter 2:1-10](#). As you read these verses, make note of where you once were versus where you are today "because of the great love with which God loved you." (v4) How do the riches of God's grace make you want to live a different life?

## Reflect & Respond:

1. Without **God's grace**, we would be just like everyone else.
  - [Read Ephesians 2:8](#). Grace is not our own doing; it is a gift God freely gives us. Yet we often reject God's gift by ignoring it, bargaining for his favor or working our way to being "good enough." Where in your life are you forgetting to remember there is more than enough grace for you?
  - Tell God how you need to experience His grace today. There is no area of your life – spiritual, emotional, physical or relational – that God is unwilling to touch with the power of His grace.
2. To become more like Jesus, we must **make an effort to grow** in the grace of Jesus.
  - [Read 2 Peter 1:2](#). Giving grace like Jesus is an act of generosity. As you consider your life, relationships and circumstances, where do you need to grow more generous in giving grace?
  - Jesus has done His part. What effort do you need to make SO THAT you are growing in grace? Be specific: I need to \_\_\_\_\_ [let go of my past hurt, pray for healing, spend time with Jesus, read my bible, pursue community with other believers, be less critical, stop complaining, not be so quickly offended, etc.]
3. To become more like Jesus, we must **learn to forgive** like Jesus.
  - [Read Colossians 3:13](#). When was the last time you made an allowance for someone's faults or forgave an offense? Did you do that quickly and freely OR have you kept a record of those wrongs? Be REAL!
  - The first to apologize is the bravest. The first to forgive is the strongest. The first to forget is the happiest. In which area do you need to begin practicing going first?

**Prayer:** Father God, thank you for your amazing grace that saves me and sustains me. I can never adequately express my gratitude for the price Jesus paid by willingly sacrificing his life for me. When I forget – when I'm reluctant, doubting or hurting – help me remember that your grace for me never runs out. As I receive that grace, give me the courage to build a different life – a life marked by generous grace toward the people around me. Help me to apologize first, forgive quickly and trust what I can't see or understand into your mighty hands. Amen.

## Dig Deeper Opportunity

[Read Hebrews 4:14-16 NLT](#). Life is not without conflict or hardship, but these verses remind us that we are not without help when we most need it. When we are lacking, what do we need to hold onto? Who can we turn to? Why is He a safe place for us? How are we told to approach Him? Go boldly to the throne and receive the grace you need. This isn't a one-time offer, Jesus is always willing, ready and able to be your King of grace.