

# CITYGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

ECHOES of the Reformation PART 4



**citygroups**  
COMMUNITY • GROWTH • MISSION

## Fall Week 6 Week of Oct 15, 2017

### REMINDERS for leaders:

Here's a few reminders before you get going:

- **VIDEO:** Each week we will have a video for you to show at your group meeting. (*Remember you will need to use your password*)
- **Find an Apprentice or Co-Leader.** Be ready to: Replace Yourself & Multiply. My challenge for EVERY group leader is to find someone you can teach about leading a group. Ever since Jesus, the gospel has spread and churches have grown by individuals teaching others what they know. This will also free you up as you hand away responsibility. Lets keep sending leaders out to make disciples!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **LEADING OR HOSTING A NEW CITY GROUP:** We are looking for 10 new City Group leaders and host homes on the East Side of town ( for our East Campus). Contact [Craig@cctally.com](mailto:Craig@cctally.com)
2. **BAPTISMS: (Sun. 10/29)** Have you been baptized yet? Sign up online [www.citychurchtallahassee.com/baptism](http://www.citychurchtallahassee.com/baptism)

### BIG IDEA(s):

This week, we'll focus on the Reformation doctrine of **Sola Gratia...Grace Alone**. We are saved by God's grace alone...we have nothing to contribute to our own salvation. God's grace can be seen in covering Adam and Eve's shame with animal skins and is seen most clearly the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross. God's grace is unearned, costly and in no way cheap. But sometimes, we take God's grace for granted, or struggle to extend grace to others. Help your group members see and savor God's grace and how it can transform our relationships.

**PRAY:** Ask the Lord to lead your group meeting, speak through the Scriptures and guiding conversations.

**READ:** Romans 3:21-26

## HEAD (20 minutes)

### WATCH THIS WEEK'S VIDEO

#### *Part 4 – Grace Alone*

**1) Who is the most gracious (grace-full) person you know? What is it about how they treat you that communicates grace?**

**2) What is God's grace and why is the doctrine of Grace Alone still important today?**

**(Eph. 2:8-9)** (God's grace = undeserved merit from God alone. This grace is not earned by Christian performance or given to us by the church, the pope or a pastor. It's simply getting what we do not deserve. )

**3) What does 'cheap grace' mean to you?** (Sometimes Christians take God's grace for granted, as if we were entitled to it. God's grace is not cheap. Grace cost the death of God's Son! )

**4) Read Romans 3:23-24 & John 1:16-17. What about these verses do you love the most and why? What do they teach us about grace?** (Rom 3:23-24 is one of the most beloved and memorized Bible verses because we can all relate to it. We all sin & all fall short of God's glory. But God responded with grace for all who trust in Christ alone for salvation. Challenge group members to memorize one of these verses this week.)

## HEART: (15 minutes)

**1) Describe a recent time where you felt or experienced the God's grace in a way that changed your life?**

**2) If you were mentoring someone, what would be an indicator that they might have a cheap view of God's grace?** ('I know that's wrong but God will forgive me, so I'm gonna... Or 'God could never forgive me for...' Or 'I've got to clean myself up before I can...etc.)

- How could you come alongside them and help them guide them towards a healthier view of God's grace alone?** (As disciple-makers we need to be able to spot a cheap view of grace in both ourselves and others. Asking them why questions is helpful here. For example, 'Why are you having a hard time forgiving yourself (or someone else)? Do you think Jesus' death is unable to cleanse that sin? Or 'Yes, you can be forgiven for looking at porn, but why do you keep going back to it? What are you getting from porn that you are not looking to Jesus for?' )

## HANDS (15 Minutes):

**1) How does grace influence the way you handle conflict with others?** (Col. 3:13 & Matt. 18:15-17. Grace bears with one another, forgives, seeks peace, and confronts with the goal of reconciliation.)

- Is there anyone you need to extend more grace to or forgive?** (Spouse, kids, co-worker, boss, friend, classmate or another Christian? God expects forgiven people to forgive others. See Matt. 18:21-35)

**PRAY:** Take a few moments to share prayer requests and pray for one another and your lost friends.

## **RESOURCE & Disciple-making skill:**

Cheap Grace and idol worship are linked. Often times, we choose to stay in habitually sinful patterns because of a cheap or low view of God's grace. This lends itself to idol worship. In other words, we look past God's grace to get to what we really want (idol), which would be whatever we are finding some cheap form of satisfaction from instead of God. Or in Dean's words, we believe the lie of satan that we have to go around God to find fulfillment, satisfaction and meaning in life. Our sins expose our cheap view of God's grace, and idol worship in our hearts. Below is a helpful resource from Tim Keller to aid you as group leaders (disciple-makers) to help identify the heart idols of people. – Craig

### **20 “Heart Idol” Questions**

**Below the surface are often root idols; things we worship or base our worth on rather than God. Healing often comes when we identifying these idols, turn from them and embrace our God in worship. (I John 5:21... ‘Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.’**

#### **“Life only has meaning when/I only have worth if...**

1. I have power and influence over others.” (Power Idolatry)
2. I am loved and respected by \_\_\_\_\_. ” (Approval Idolatry)
3. I have this kind of pleasure experience, a particular quality of life.” (Comfort idolatry)
4. I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of \_\_\_\_\_. ” (Control idolatry)
5. people are dependent on me and need me.” (Helping Idolatry)
6. someone is there to protect me and keep me safe.” (Dependence idolatry)
7. I am completely free from obligations or responsibilities to take care of someone.” (Independence idolatry)
8. I am highly productive and getting a lot done.” (Work idolatry)
9. I am being recognized for my accomplishments, and I am excelling in my work.” (Achievement idolatry)
10. I have a certain level of wealth, financial freedom, and very nice possessions.” (Materialism idolatry)
11. I am adhering to my religion’s moral codes and accomplished in its activities.” (Religion idolatry)
12. This one person is in my life and happy to be there, and/or happy with me.” (Individual person idolatry)
13. I feel I am totally independent of organized religion and am living by a self-made morality.” (Irreligion idolatry)
14. My race and culture is ascendant and recognized as superior.” (Racial/cultural idolatry)
15. A particular social grouping or professional grouping or other group lets me in.” (Inner ring idolatry)
16. My children and/or my parents are happy and happy with me.” (Family idolatry)
17. Mr. or Ms. “Right” is in love with me.” (Relationship Idolatry)
18. I am hurting, in a problem; only then do I feel worthy of love or able to deal with guilt.” (Suffering idolatry)
19. my political or social cause is making progress and ascending in influence or power.” (Ideology idolatry)
20. I have a particular kind of look or body image.” (Image idolatry)