

Love – Week 2 – The Extent Of God’s Love

Connect and review	
<p>Welcome any newcomers and ensure everyone knows everyone else’s name. Encourage everyone to share something they learnt from last week.</p>	<p>Brief recap on last week. Sharing about personal reflections on last week’s suggested activities, namely: (i) how much do you know about love? & (ii) are you aware of any differences in Christian love and worldly love?</p>
Inspire and engage	
<p>There is no set way to present material, just go the way that suits you. Try to use most of the Bible verses.</p>	<p>Extent = the size or scale of something. All of God’s actions towards people flow through His grace. What is grace? Grace = God’s favour, goodwill, kindness, blessing. Some people remember it as “God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense”. Another way of thinking about grace, is that there is a river of blessing flowing from God’s throne towards people – this river is called grace. God’s grace operates in 2 main ways towards people: first, “saving grace” – this affects those who get “born again”, i.e., become part of His Kingdom. It refers to God saving people and becomes the main business of the Church to see the lost saved. See Ephesians 2:8; Acts 15:11; Romans 11:6; Titus 2:11-14. Second, “common grace” – this refers to what God does in the world in which we live, including both Christians and non-Christians. “Common” does NOT mean ordinary, but that God’s goodness is commonly available to all people. So, e.g., God has given us many things to enjoy and appreciate in our world, such as good music, art, great learning and knowledge, advanced technology. It is also why we have doctors, police officers, firefighters, law and order, government, etc. It explains why we can all benefit from extraordinary people, e.g., Einstein, Churchill, Beethoven. See Psalms 145:9; Matthew 5:45; Luke 6:35+36; 2 Peter 3:9.</p>
Explore and apply	
<p>Attempt one exercise at a time and only use them all if time allows. Try to encourage Q & A and discussion but avoid personal/private answers.</p>	<p>Explore Acts 8:1-3 & 9:1-8 – the conversion of Saul, who later became known as Paul. This is an example of God’s “saving grace”. But – 1 Why did God pursue Paul even though he was persecuting believers? 2 Does this mean that God will always persist with those who act in an ungodly way? 3 What does it tell us about God’s patience with us? 4 Does this mean that if God is sufficiently patient with everyone, then all will be saved? Apply How much does God’s saving grace extend to everyone alive?</p>
Reflect and review	
<p>This helps to show what has been learned and what may need to be reinforced.</p>	<p><i>Personal reflection:</i> 1 How has God’s common grace affected your life? 2 At what moment in your life did saving grace become apparent? <i>Suggested activity:</i> How can you make your non-Christian family and friends more aware of God’s common grace at work in their lives, so that they become more receptive to His saving grace?</p>