

**LIFEGROUP STUDY**  
**FOLLOW ME: THERE IS GRACE IN THE CALL**  
**FEB. 28, 2021**

**PARTICIPANT NOTES**

**OVERVIEW**

Welcome back to our LifeGroup study, Follow Me. Over the six-weeks leading up to Easter, we're looking at the invitation Jesus gives us – "Follow Me". On Sunday, Pete explored with us the account of Jesus calling Matthew, the tax collector. Through that teaching we discovered there is *grace* in the call. Jesus doesn't call the "healthy" or "righteous" but the "sick" and the "sinner". Like last week's story of Bartimaeus, we are blind and we need to see. For our LifeGroup study, we're going to dig into Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed. This parable gives us another important reminder that to follow Jesus, we need His grace to help us see. What obstacles might be getting in your way of following Jesus? Why is repenting so important when we respond to Him? These are some of the questions we'll look at as we move into today's study, "There is grace in the call."

**ICEBREAKER Plant it and it Will Grow – I Hope!**

When I was a teen, a friend and I decided we'd make money by renting a garden plot, planting potatoes and then selling the potatoes for a nifty profit. Easy, right? 😊 This introduction to vegetable gardening taught me a few things. Planting the seed doesn't mean you're going to have an amazing harvest. It takes a lot of hard work and perseverance along the way! Share a memory with your group about planting a garden when you were younger. What did you learn? Do you love gardening today or would you rather pick up your veggies wrapped and ready to go in the store? Share a gardening adventure (or misadventure) with your group!

**STUDY**

1. On Sunday, Pete pointed out that in order to follow Jesus, we must see ourselves in need of God's grace, a person who is "sick" and a "sinner". **What do you think of this idea?**
2. Jesus' invitation, Follow Me, includes a call to "repent". **What does it mean to repent? What has repentance looked like in your life?**

READ: Matthew 13:1-23 **The Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed**

3. Jesus' disciples ask him why he uses parables when he teaches. **How does Jesus respond?** (see vs. 11-12)

4. In his response to the disciples' question, Jesus quotes part of Isaiah 6 (Matthew 13:13-15) and then some insights in verses 16-17 on the importance of "seeing". **In these verses, how often does Jesus use the word "see"? What does "seeing" have to do with responding to Jesus' call to follow?**
  
5. In verse 19, Jesus talks about "the message about the Kingdom." **Why is the Kingdom central to Jesus' teaching?**
  
6. In verse 22, Jesus talks about some obstacles that can get in the way of our response to Jesus. **What obstacles does he describe? What might it look like to repent of these today?**
  
7. To "see" and "hear" about the Kingdom, we need God's grace. We need his grace to open our eyes and ears and to soften our hearts. **How would you explain God's grace to someone who is caught up trying to behave their way to God?**
  
8. **What has been a key takeaway for you from today's study about what it means to Follow Jesus?**

## **NEXT STEPS**

For our series, Follow Me, we invite you to take next steps to grow your walk with God by spending time with Him. Here are 3 ways you can do that.

- 1) Watch the Daily Devos from Creekside. <https://vimeo.com/showcase/devotionals>
- 2) Use S.O.A.P. – a method of spending time with God – explained in the Daily Devos.
- 3) Engage with others from Creekside about your experience  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3459966190810762>

## **PRAYER:**

Creekside supports several career missionaries who serve in various parts of the world. Let's pray for them this week:

- Hannah Miller serves with Power to Change Digital Strategies, leading the Farsi online mentoring team. Pray for God's wisdom, guidance and strength for everyone involved with the ministry, and for more prayer and financial partners.
- Pray for Creekside Missionary families, the Niemeijers and the Cymbaluks. Currently both are here in Canada awaiting necessary visa paperwork in order to return to their fields of service. Pray for provision for their time here, and for the journeys ahead.