



In our current situation it is so easy for people to speak ill of each other, to complain as a result of the loss of control and feel the stress and strain of the past 10 months. We are called to be the salt and light of God's coming kingdom but how? We suffer just as many others. It is only by God's Grace that we can be people of peace, a people that can be graceful to ourselves, our family, our enemies and the church. So, over the next few weeks we are going to look at the Bible for inspiring stories of God's grace for ourselves, for our family, for others and the Church, leading us to Easter.

'God's Grace' - for ourselves, part 1

Read Genesis 12: 1-7

Because this is a well known passage, it is perhaps too easy to pass over without fully appreciating what God promises Abram.

- Without this promise, what do you think Israel's history might look like? Would our own history be changed? Does it impact the following whole Bible story?
- After the very beginning, the creation account, the fall, Noah and the flood, God seems to be starting something new with Abram. What do you see in the wording of the promise to help us identify this?
- What had Abram done to merit such a promise and commitment from God?

Read 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

- ❖ As suggested in the introduction above, in our current situation it is more challenging to remember how God's grace is blessing us. Take a moment to think about this. Can each member of the group name at least one blessing they are aware of? Read again verse 8.
- ❖ What relationship or connection can you find between 'a cheerful giver' and God's grace?
- ❖ From this passage, would you say that God's grace is lavished on everyone (grace as distinct from love)?
- ❖ There are several roles for us (the body of Christ – the Church) identified in verses 12-15. What can you identify?

"Grace is the first and last moving cause of salvation; and faith, essential as it is, is only an important part of the machinery which grace employs. We are saved 'through faith,' but salvation is 'by grace.'" Charles H. Spurgeon