

VI

Gracious
S p a c e

A Big God

Review

Part 1 - Breaking Barriers Between Us

- The first step in fostering gracious space is to recognize the barriers we put up that limit authentic connection.

Part 2 - Bear (put up) With One Another

- “Bear with each other”, “make allowance for each other’s faults,” “put up with” and “be tolerant with one another.”

Part 3 - A Place for CHE

- Curiosity - inquisitive interest in others' concerns
- Humility - a proper understanding of ones significance
- Empathy - being sensitive to the feelings, thoughts, and experiences of another

Part 4 - 1 Truth 7.7 Billion Perspectives

- Do we read the Bible to support beliefs, or discover beliefs?

Part 5 - 1 Truth Part 2

- The Bible was written *for* us, not *to* us
- We are often taught what to believe about the Bible before we actually read it for ourselves.
- Jesus spoke in parables to teach people *how* to believe more than *what* to believe.
- The Bible is the source of truth, but also one large story which we are a part of.

Gracious Space: A Big God

Taking some time to “be still” and recognize God is with you, around you, before you, and after you... positions your heart and mind to revel in the vastness and awesomeness of our Almighty God.

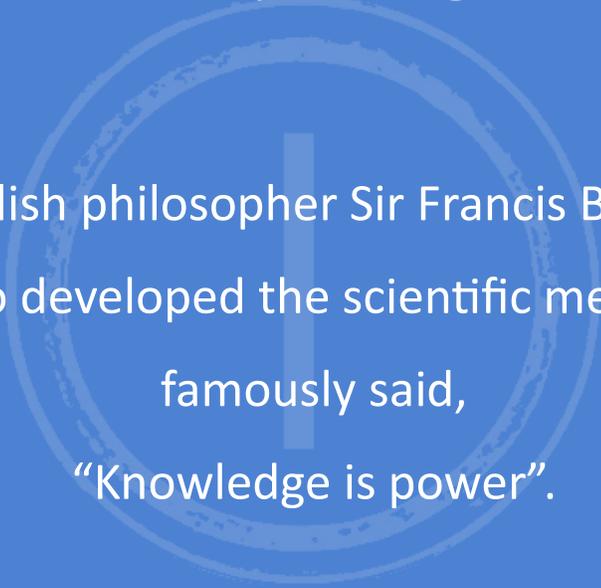
Now is the time to settle our spirit, and be open to what *the* Spirit has to say to us right now, in this time of reflection and learning.

Try some intentional breathing or the Psalm meditation online. Sense your body relaxing and becoming present and ready to hear God speak.

RESOURCE: [Presence of God Meditation](#)

Continue now, giving space for yourself and others to journey into the Father’s Words, the Spirit’s Presence, and the love, grace, and passion of the Son.

Gracious Space: A Big God



English philosopher Sir Francis Bacon
(who developed the scientific method)
famously said,
“Knowledge is power”.

Think about or share a time that you felt like
the smartest person in the room?

What does it feel like to know something exciting
that nobody else does?

What about the feeling that comes
when everybody gets the joke but you?

Gracious Space: A Big God

At KCC, we believe that we are called to participate with God in restoring His creation to what it was meant to be.

In carrying out this mission, we are honoured that He would ask us to participate and must rely and trust in His plans and wisdom.

What could be some examples of the church relying on their own wisdom rather than God's?

What about an example from history, where the church may have abused knowledge?

Are you ever concerned about what God's plans are for KCC?
Or maybe where KCC might be missing God's plan for us?

Gracious Space: A Big God

Scripture:

Read Proverbs 3:5-6 and Matt 7:24-27

What does it mean to trust in the Lord
or to build your house on the rock?

Is there any point at which we should
depend on our own understanding?

Reflect or discuss times when trying to depend on
your own understanding did not work out that well.

What about this week?

Is there something from your distant past
that still escapes your understanding?

Gracious Space: A Big God

The Book of Job describes a situation in which Job (through no fault of his own) is subjected to an insurmountable degree of pain and suffering.

Job's friends and family try to give him advice based on their understanding of how the world works.

They believe in something called the *Theory of Retribution* (*karma* or *poetic justice*)

where what goes around comes around.

Can you think of any stories of “instant karma”?

Job's friends were convinced that his pain and suffering were the result of something that Job had done wrong.

What do you think about the idea of *karma* or *poetic justice*?

After much dialogue between Job and friends (chapters 3 -37), God finally responds in Chapter 38.

Read Job 38

Discuss God's response to human wisdom.

The Bible often talks about *Almighty* God as *all* powerful (omnipotent), and *all* knowing (omniscient), and present in *all* places (omnipresent).

Read the following scriptures out loud and reflect on what it might mean that the Creator is in all of Their creation

Psalm 139 abridged (NLT)

*I can never get away from your presence!
If I go up to heaven, you are there;
if I go down to the grave, you are there.
If I ride the wings of the morning,
if I dwell by the farthest oceans,
even there your hand will guide me,
and your strength will support me...
For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

Gracious Space: A Big God

Colossians 1:16-17

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Ephesians 4:4-6 (NLT)

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Do we tend to limit the boundaries of God's presence?

Colossians 3:9-11 (NLT)

...you have taken off your old self... and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian... slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Do we tend to limit *who* God can be found in?

Gracious Space: A Big God

How do the Scriptures on the previous pages influence your thoughts about God's "bigness"?

What does God's character as being all powerful, all knowing, and all present have to do with Gracious Space and everything we have discussed so far in this study series?
(use the review page to help with this question)

RESOURCE: [Mystery but Love poem](#)

The final questions on the next page may not have clear answers. It is REALLY important to take time to ponder and/or discuss them humbly and prayerfully.

It may be a good idea to journal your answers or think about them over the course of a few days.

Gracious Space: A Big God

What are the dangers of being wise in our own eyes?

What are the benefits and drawbacks from seeking wisdom from our peers?

What are some things that we can understand about God?

Is God or scripture able to be fully understood?
What's scary about that?

What's actually inspiring about a God that can not be fully understood?

What if God is bigger, and *in* more people and places than we thought?

How does having a **BIG** God help us in offering each other *gracious* space?

Gracious Space



Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

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