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Gracious
S p a c e

Breaking the Barriers
Between Us

Introduction

Welcome to the “*Gracious Space*” Study Series, originally written and produced for First Baptist Church, Prince George, BC in conjunction with their 2019 Fall Sermon Series.

This multi-week study can be done in a small group, as couples, or as an individual reflection, and is best done in conjunction with the main teaching sermons... but doesn't have to be.

You will notice throughout this guide that there are “RESOURCE” suggestions. To utilize these resources, you will need to use your computer, tablet, or smart phone, go to the church website kaledenchurch.ca and click on the “Gracious Space” logo. If you have a digital copy of this guide you may be able to directly click the link.

If you are leading a group it is important that you pre-read the guide in order to properly manage time. It is best not to rush through any one question, allowing for multiple people to give their perspectives.

This study takes anywhere from 30 mins to 2 hours.

We pray you will enjoy the journey into *Gracious Space*...

Gracious Space: Breaking the Barriers Between Us

Before beginning, it could be a good idea to take some time to simply pray and meditate in order to open your heart and mind to the Spirit. Feel free to do the simple relaxation just below, or use the additional RESOURCE by going online.

You may wish to be mindful of the stressors and pressures that are competing for your attention.

Take some deep breaths, being aware of the air coming in through your nose and out through your mouth.

Allow your worries to worry about themselves for now, while you become present and ready in *this* moment.

RESOURCE: [Presence of God Meditation](#)

Continue now, being present and 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: Breaking the Barriers Between Us

What does “gracious space” mean to you?

Don’t answer this question too quickly.

Spend some time in personal reflection or in group discussion.

It may not mean the same thing for everyone.

It could be a good idea to write down your thoughts on the meaning of “gracious space” in a journal or make some notes on a smart phone, and then review them at the end of this series.

Gracious Space: Breaking the Barriers Between Us

At KCC we believe, and we have been teaching, that we are called to participate with God in His restoration of our broken world. In carrying out this mission, we are bound to encounter some differences in what this looks like to each of us.

What are some of the areas in which we might not agree?

Some areas may be major (LGTBQ), while others may be fairly insignificant to you (colour of the sanctuary carpet).

Remember, now is not the time to argue about anything :-)
We're just listing possible areas of disagreement.



Scripture:

Read Romans 14

The Apostle Paul seemed to be concerned about the ethnic walls between the Jewish Christians and the Gentile Christians.

What are some of the walls between *Christians* today?

What about common walls in couples?

Parents & children... Co-workers... Siblings?

What are some of the ways in which we can work towards breaking down some of these walls?

Gracious Space: Breaking the Barriers Between Us

In terms of eating meat, this was a *primary* (**MAJOR**) issue for the Christians in Rome, on both sides of this debate.

The Apostle Paul, however, was trying to convince them that it really was a *secondary* (**MINOR**) issue.

In our Christian life today, how can we determine which issues should be considered *primary* and which should be *secondary*?

There's no need to come up with the answer here, just discuss some ideas.

Gracious Space: Breaking the Barriers Between Us



Lets say you're having a discussion with a fellow Christian about the Bible. You find yourselves disagreeing more and more as the conversation progresses.

Is there a point where you might think this person isn't actually a follower of Jesus?

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Scripture:

Re-read Romans 14

(maybe try another translation)

In this passage, the Apostle Paul was trying to get the Christians in Rome to respect each other – even though they disagree.

Think about or discuss a time when you were in a disagreement with someone and you felt disrespected.

What other emotions do you remember feeling from that situation?

Can you think of a situation or disagreement where you wouldn't need to respect the other?

(Really ponder this one)

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Scripture:

Read Matt 10:28-39; John 17:20-21;

Eph 4:1-4; Rom 14:18-19

What do these scriptures say about getting along?

The final questions on the next page may not have clear answers. It is important to ponder and 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: Breaking the Barriers Between Us



Are there situations in your life where unity should *not* be a priority?

How about specifically in your family?

Are there situations or examples in the church where unity is *not* possible?

Jesus has said that people will know that we are His followers by our love (John 13:35).

In our current culture, do you think the way Christians get along has a significant influence on how others are attracted to Jesus?

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