

III

*Gracious*  
S p a c e

*A Place for CHE*

## Review

Each part of the “*Gracious Space*” Study Series builds on the previous part. Although each study can be a stand-alone devotional, it is best that we hold previous points in our mind as we progress through.

### Part 1 - Breaking Barriers Between Us

- The Church has been putting up needless barriers for literally thousands of years.
- 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

- Barriers can be helpful AND limiting.
- “Bear with each other”, “make allowance for each other’s faults,” “put up with” and “be tolerant with one another.”
- Put on the “clothes” of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, & love for bearing with others.
- Can we really know who is the weak or strong one in an conflict over faith?

## Gracious Space: A Place for Curiosity, Humility & Empathy

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 receive the wisdom and discernment of the Spirit.

Now is the time to lessen the distractions, to recognize the pressures that lay heavy on your mind can wait for tomorrow. Take some deep breaths, 2 seconds in through the nose, and 5 seconds out through the mouth. Sense your body relaxing and becoming present and ready in *this* moment as you prepare 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 Place for Curiosity, Humility & Empathy*

The themes of this week are *Curiosity, Humility & Empathy*.

Think about or discuss what these terms mean to you.

*Curiosity* - inquisitive interest in others' concerns

*Humility* - understanding the proper level of ones  
significance

*Empathy* - being sensitive to the feelings, thoughts,  
and experiences of another

What are some stories from your life that could be examples of each of these themes?

*Gracious Space: A Place for Curiosity, Humility & Empathy*

At KCC we believe 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 that will require difficult conversations.

Think of or discuss some really *unhealthy* conversations  
you've had in the past?

If appropriate, think about some unhealthy disagreements  
you've been a part of or witnessed in the *church*.

Compare the differences in how difficult conversations are dealt  
with at *work* versus the *church*. Are there any?  
(school vs. church, home vs. church, etc.)



Scripture:  
Read Philippians 2:1-18

Do you see the theme of humility in this scripture?

What about curiosity?

(If you're having trouble with this one,  
maybe check the definition again for a hint)

And lastly, where do you see the theme  
of *empathy* in this scripture ?

The Apostle Paul most likely wrote this letter, to the church in Philippi, from a prison in Rome.

He wrote to thank and encourage the Philippian church, but also to address some issues he had heard about.

What do you think may be Paul's reason or reasons for stressing unity to the Philippian church?

What false teaching was Paul concerned about when writing to the Philippians?

(you may wish to check out Philippians 3:2-21 or 4:2-3)

The following question may be uncomfortable. So only share or think about your answers if you feel safe to do so.

When was a time in your life that you wish you could go back and do over?

(Maybe it was a big fight you had with a friend or loved one)

If you were to insert *curiosity* into your story,  
how might it have changed the way  
you perceived the situation?

If you were to insert *humility* into your story,  
how might it have changed the way people acted?

If you were to insert *empathy* into your story,  
how might have things turned out differently?

*Gracious Space: A Place for Curiosity, Humility & Empathy*

Gracious Space is not just about creating space for others,  
but also for yourself!

You may wish to take some time right now  
as a group or as an individual  
to pray and talk to God about your stories.

Visualize His grace pouring into your story  
and being soaked up by your past failures.

Recognize the *gracious* space Jesus has created  
in order to foster a relationship with you and me.

Scripture:

Read these verses in multiple translations

Romans 12:3; Colossians 4:6

Think back to the last study guide. What role do conversations have in 'putting up with' one another.

What would a *Colossians 4:6* conversation look like?

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 Place for Curiosity, Humility & Empathy*

How does curiosity, humility & empathy help with connection and unity, even in our differences?

**RESOURCE:** [Brené Brown on empathy \(3mins\)](#)

How do these themes foster “gracious space” that allows for differences in what we believe about the Bible?

What could be some examples of gracious space with people in your life?

What could be some examples of gracious space here at Kaleden Community Church?

## *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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