

GRACE

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

2 Cor 12:9



UNDER PRESSURE

 Hazlemere
church

IN – *Start here. The purpose here is to help everyone to feel included, and to ‘tune in’ to each other.*

Questions to use:

- Share one thing about your week? (Ideally something that helps to illustrate the type of week you’ve had)
- Where have you seen God move?
- Share one aspect of Gods character/promises which is particularly relevant for you at this time.
(Alternatively share a question about God/faith that is relevant if you’d prefer – NB but beware of being side-tracked by having a detailed discussion about it at this point)

UP – *Here the purpose is for the group to draw nearer to God together.*

[Optional] You may wish to start this section by a different group member each week sharing a verse/passage which holds meaning to them; or by some other act of worship – perhaps listening to a worship track or simply reading a Psalm together.

READ: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10; John 3:1-21

1. Understanding the Passage(s)

First read the passage(s) together – and then use the following questions where applicable.

- What is the overall message that you get from the passage?
- What do you know about the context of the passage that will help you better understand its meaning? (ie who it is written to? what else was happening at the time?)
- Is there one or two key phrases which stand out to you? Why?
- What further questions does the passage leave you with?

2. Drawing Close to God through the passage

This part is the heart of the study – these questions are about moving from knowledge about God to engagement with him

- What about the passage (a) encourages you? (b) challenges you?

- How does this shape or affirm your understanding of God and his relationship with you?
- Prayerfully consider what God might want to say to you through this passage? (It may help to put yourself into the position of one of the people within the text – either a character, or perhaps the recipient)
- What would you say to God in reply?

OUT – *This is about encouraging each other in living out our faith: both in terms of personal discipleship (spiritual habits), ministry to others (showing love to friends, family, church), and our calling to the world (blessing others, social engagement, evangelism, etc.)*

Ideally this may be as a result of the discussion you have just had, but it doesn't have to be.

- Share one hope/prayer for yourself this week
- Share one hope/prayer for Gods work through you this week

End with a period of prayer for each other