



## Home Group Discussion Guide

*October 10-16, 2021 – The Soul of Community – a Grace-Filled Community*

**Devotion:** You know, if I was completely unfamiliar with the Christian faith, I think I would be confused by Christians. There's a word that gets thrown around a lot and if I were just trying to figure out the definition based on context of conversation, I would have a hard time defining it. What's the word? GRACE. Think about it. Around the dinner table, we might ask someone to say GRACE. When you're late on a payment, you might ask for GRACE. A person might be described as someone full of GRACE. In church we say that God offers us eternal life by GRACE through faith. From those examples, I might guess the word means gratitude or forgiveness or kindness or salvation. Which is it? See how confusing we Christians are?? The truth is, the answer is yes. Yes, GRACE is salvation and kindness and forgiveness and gratitude and as a home group, GRACE should be the very soul of our community.

Many people have probably asked you the same question they've asked me – what does it mean to be Methodist? While we can talk about the history and the theological interpretation of Scripture, I always go back to one answer. We are a people centered on GRACE. We believe we experience GRACE in different ways through our life, but without GRACE, we cannot explain our faith. We believe that we are pursued by prevenient grace, saved by justifying grace, and transformed by sanctifying grace. If you ever want to know more, I'd recommend the study, *The Means of Grace* by Andrew C. Thompson. Let's commit to being a grace-filled community!

### **Scripture – Read Colossians 4:2-6**

- How many times does the author mention prayer or praying? What are we supposed to be praying for? For which of these things do you pray for regularly?
- Read aloud verse 6 again. What does it mean to be full of grace in this passage? Where have you struggled with that this week?
- What does it mean to be “seasoned with salt” in verse 6? In what ways have you been able to speak “seasoned with salt” this week?
- How does this passage connect within your home group and the community you have built? How has your grace-filled home group helped you become a stronger or more committed follower of Jesus?

**How is it with your soul?** (*You'll notice that these questions are the same each week. This helps us develop a habit of looking for God and considering how we are responding to God's presence during the week.*)

- Where have you seen God this week?
- Where have you struggled this week?
- How can you be open to God/the Holy Spirit this week?

### **Prayers**