

Small Group Material - Fruitfulness on the Frontline

Ministering Grace and Love - Col 1.3-8

Welcome - Looking back (10 mins)

Does anyone have a story to share of good work on their frontline that the group can celebrate?

Worship (15 mins)

Jesus radically expressed love and grace on the cross. However, the words, 'grace' and 'love', are easily watered down today. Can you think of a time when someone has powerfully shown you grace and love in a way that you think captures the real meaning of these words?

Sing: 'This is amazing grace'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgsbaBlaoVc>

Praise Jesus for his grace and love to us.

Word

PLAY FILM to end - approx. 9 mins

Questions to discuss after the film (10 mins)

1. In the film Mark argues that sometimes we set the bar too high for what counts as 'ministry'. Do you agree?
2. What small-but-costly things do you already do on your frontline that you might not have ever considered to be 'ministry'? (Don't be shy!)
3. Peju went out of her way to generously minister love and grace to a fellow busy mum. How does her story inspire you and what might you do on your frontline?
4. Imagine Peju were to find herself having a conversation with one of the non-Christian mums. What difference might her actions make to what she says?

Read Colossians 1.3-8 (35 mins)

1. Paul hasn't met these believers but what has he heard about them? (Dig out more than the two obvious things!)
2. Why are faith and love the products of hope? What is 'Christian hope'? Why must hope exist first?
3. What does this passage tell us about the gospel? If someone asked you what 'God's grace' is, how would you explain it? (v13, 22)
4. What, for you, is most amazing about God's grace?
5. We have been shown lavish grace and love by Jesus. Our love and grace towards others springs from thankfulness for the grace that we have been shown. What can prevent you from ministering generous love and grace to those on your frontlines?
6. Can you think of ways in which you might minister grace and love on your frontline this week? (Give people a minute to think prayerfully about this before you share)

Witness (15 mins)

Pray that God would reveal more of his grace and love for us.

Pray that, like Peter with his newspaper clippings, you would find ways to support one another on each other's frontlines. Ask each other if there are ways you can do this?

Pray for Encounter on February 3rd.

Pray for us to become more effective in our welcoming of people at church. Toby is tasked with working with those who lead the Welcome and Refreshment teams to see how we can develop in these areas at St Mary's.

Action Point: How about deciding that each person spend £2-£3 showing love and grace to someone on their frontline this week? This could be writing a card, buying a coffee or flowers...