



I LOVE MY CONNECT

STUDY 6

Season of Grace & Favour

Ezra 9:8-9

We are in a season of God's supernatural Grace and Favor. When we receive his grace and favor fully in our lives it set us up to be Released, Revived, Repaired and Rebuilt. God desires for us to live full, joyful, and purposeful lives. In order for this to be effective in our lives we need to believe that God's grace and favor are there for us to receive.

While the Israelites were in captivity and Ezra was desperate and humiliated, he chose to see God's grace and favor even though his circumstances told him that he should be feeling condemned and defeated. In order for Christ to transform us from our past humiliations and mistakes - from what we were, into who we are in Him - we have to believe for God's grace and favor in our lives. We need to say "goodbye" to a victim mentality, humiliation and defeat and instead chose to see the breakthrough, blessings and opportunities that God has for us.

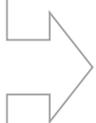
For many of us, this process of shedding old mentalities and attitudes is a long journey. For others, it may seem that the life we have lived and the life we are pursuing lines up quickly. But, no matter our current status, we all come under the status of God's children! We are all claimed by JESUS and set apart as the family of God. We are part of a COMMISSION that is bathed in God's Grace and His Favor!

CONNECTION AND ACTION Use these questions to promote conversation and connection.

ICEBREAKER: What is a new hobby or activity that you have started this year?

- Q:** When do you typically experience the tangible presence of God? What do you do to cultivate it?
- Q:** This study speaks of a season of grace in our church. How do we identify a season of grace? What do you think triggers such a season?
- Q:** We have claimed revival for our church this year. How is personal revival going in your own life? What are you doing to develop spiritual freshness?
- Q:** To experience God's grace and favour, we often need to change poor mindsets. Share a time when you overcame such a mindset. How did you do it? What result did you see?
- Q:** Describe a fresh revelation you've received recently. What difference has it made in your life?
- Q:** What miracles or breakthroughs have you experienced this year in sharing the Gospel with people? What would you like to see? (**Leader's Tip:** Use this to strategise for soul winning).

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BIBLE AND BELIEF Use these questions and scriptures to help believers develop a biblical worldview.

Read Ezra 9:5-9

- Q.** What is the context of these verses?
- Q.** Ezra draws attention to both negative seasons and positive seasons. What caused each season? (**Tip:** the negative season was God's judgement on their repeated disobedience. The positive season was God's favour to pursue his purposes).
- Q.** What can we learn from these seasons, and from Ezra's response?
- Q.** What principles are relevant when we seek to apply scriptural accounts of God's favour to our own lives? (**Tip:** Are there any conditions? Are our contexts and the biblical context similar? What aspect of the heart and purpose of God is revealed?)
- Q.** What causes us to doubt God's grace and favour towards us? What portions of Scripture can encourage us through this doubt?

GROWING LEADERSHIP Use these questions to help people in your group grow as leaders.

- Q:** Which leaders are inspiring you to pursue revival, grace and favour at the moment? What about them is inspiring this? What can you emulate in your own leadership?
- Q:** One of the things leaders do is find a clear way forward for those they lead. How well do you do at that? How can you improve?
- Q:** What about your leadership is inspiring others to believe for God's grace & favour in their life? How can you lift that even further?

Strategising

Spend time with your leaders coming up with plans for:

- Cultivating revival
- Growing leaders

PRAY TOGETHER

- Decisions for Jesus in our Services
- Nation Builders Faith Goal
- New Connect Group Leaders