

SESSION 4: MINISTERING GRACE AND LOVE

'We love because he first loved us.' 1 John 4:19

Key Question: How might I minister grace and love to people on my frontline?

Aims: In light of the grace that God has shown to us, to see how we might minister grace and love to those we interact with on our frontlines.

Core Text: Luke 10:25-37

Materials: Bibles

Thinking Back (5 mins)

In the last session we looked at making good work.

Take a minute to think back to what was covered – has anything that you talked about as a group had particular significance this week as you have been back on your frontline?

Pre-Film Discussion (5 mins)

Today, we turn to Ministering Grace and Love – two characteristics ultimately demonstrated by Jesus through his radical act of love and grace on the cross. In common modern usage, however, the meaning of the words 'grace' and 'love' are easily watered down.

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?



PLAY FILM (9 mins)

Questions to Discuss after the Film (20 mins)

- In the film Mark suggests that sometimes we set the bar too high for what counts as 'ministry'. Do you agree?
- What small but costly things might you already do on your frontline that you might not have ever considered to be ministry?
- 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?
- Imagine Peju were to find herself having a conversation with one of the non-Christian mums. What difference might her actions make to her verbal witness?

Bible Reflection (20 mins)

LUKE 10:25-37

This is a powerful parable of a Samaritan man, who would have been despised by the Jewish people, ministering grace and love to someone considered to be his enemy. Jesus told this provocative story in response to an expert in the Jewish law who was trying to draw lines around the people to whom God expected him to show love. Through the story, Jesus seems to set an impossible standard for inheriting eternal life - we're not always going to succeed in loving others in this way. This passage is therefore an encouragement to radical love, but also a reminder that we will never be good enough to earn eternal life. Like the injured man, we too rely on mercy.

- Who are the difficult 'neighbours' on our frontlines and what are some of the reasons we find not to minister grace and love to them?
- If our actions are a reflection of what is in our hearts, in what ways did the heart of the Samaritan differ from the hearts of the priest and the Levite?
- In what ways were the actions of the Samaritan costly to himself? What can it cost us to minister generous love and grace to those on our frontlines?
- How do you think the expert in the law may have felt after Jesus command to 'go and do likewise' (verse 37)?

Praying Forwards (10 mins)

Like the man by the side of the road, we have been shown lavish grace by Jesus – the ultimate Good Samaritan. Our love and grace towards others therefore springs from a place of thankfulness for the grace that we have been shown.

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

Take a moment to reflect on what it might mean for you to 'go and do likewise' on your frontline. Listen to God's prompting.

- Pray that God would give you a deeper awareness of how you could respond.
- Pray that, like Peter with his newspaper clippings, you would find increasing ways to support one another on each other's frontlines.



Takeaway Action

Each member of the group might like to allocate a budget of £3 to be used this week to show love and grace to someone on their frontline. You could perhaps buy somebody a coffee or write a kind note in a card.

How might you bless someone with your £3?



