

LIVING IN THE FAVOUR OF GOD (FOG)

Understanding grace, favour and blessing

Ice-breaker

Ask each person to write any amount above one million rand on a piece of paper, fold the papers and mix them. Ask people to randomly choose a paper from the pile and share what they would do if God told them where that amount of money could be found.

Worship

See worship booklet.

Word and Discussion

What are *grace*, *favour* and *blessing*? According to *Strong's Dictionary* some definitions are:

- *Grace* – unmerited favour, undeserved blessing or a free gift, especially in providing salvation for sinners. In secular Greek, grace refers to something attractive or delightful in a person.
- *Favour* – pleasure, desire, delight. It means to be pleased with, or to be favourable toward something.
- *Blessing* – to speak well of or to thank; to invoke a benediction, consecration or benefit. Blessing used as greeting, to signify a person highly esteemed, or as an expression of gratitude.

You are the most excellent of men and your lips have been anointed with grace, since God has blessed you forever.

Psalm 45:2 (NIV)

Discuss

- Do you think these three words are intertwined in such a way that we cannot mention one without the others?
- Are blessings, favour and grace only given to Christians?

Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size.

Numbers 13:30-32 (NIV)

- In Ephesians 1:3 the Apostle Paul says we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ. When facing doubt, how do you encourage yourself to remember the promises of God?
- Do challenges cause you to believe that you are not favoured and blessed by God? Have you wondered why you have such thoughts?
- Do you think we experience grace, favour and blessing seasonally?

But I pray to you, O LORD, in the time of your favor; in your great love, O God, answer me with your sure salvation.

Psalm 69:13 (NIV)

- In your application of Scripture on any specific topic, do you consider different verses related to the subject to understand what God is saying to you, or do you base it on one verse? With this in mind, how would you interpret Psalm 69:13?

Conclusion

Whatever we receive from God, is based on grace. John 1:16 says, 'From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.'

All that God wants to give us is made available in Christ. In John 8:32 Jesus says, 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free ...'

In 2 Corinthians 1:20 the Word says, 'For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.'

Have faith in God to daily access His blessings; learn to hear His voice and find favour in your circumstances.

Prayer

Personal prayer

Lord, may I always have faith in You and not doubt Your love for me. May my heart express gratitude to You and may everything within me praise You. May I walk by faith and not by sight.

Corporate prayer

- Pray for South Africa to embrace the favour and blessing of God.
- Pray that acts of unrighteousness, lawlessness, unforgiveness, bitterness – or any other hindrances to the release of God's blessing and favour – will be uprooted in our families and communities.
- Pray for unity in the body of Christ.