



God of transforming  
**GRACE**

**LEADER NOTES**

**small**  
**groups**  
LIFE TOGETHER

# A NOTE TO LEADERS

We are always thankful for you and the incredibly important ministry you do! Small Groups are central and vital to who we are as a church and how we live out God's calling on each of our lives.

In Small Groups we have the opportunity to open and explore God's word together, to serve and care for each other in prayer and practice, and to live out gospel shaped community.

Doing all this together means that you understand your group and its members in a profound and personal way. Accordingly, we want you to see the below studies as a starting point, not a finished product. Please feel encouraged to edit the questions, tailor them to your group and approach each week in the way you believe will serve your members. Each group will have a slightly different path to reaching the same main teaching point.

If at any point you would like support or prayer, please feel free to contact your Small Group Coach. Alternatively, if you need support from the staff team contact Pat Jones for pastoral support and Emma Wynn-Jones for Small Group coordination and administration. We will be happy to serve however we can.

# THE HEART OF SMALL GROUPS

St Paul's Castle Hill has three Key Ministry areas:

- Discipleship and Training
- Care and Integration
- Mission and Evangelism

Our vision is that every Small Group would be engaged in these three areas.

Every Small Group is engaged in **discipleship** as we open and apply the Word each week, and in **care** as we pray together and look after the needs of others in our group and community.

Our hope is that every small group would also be engaged in **mission**, spurring one another on in local mission and connecting with one of our link missionaries.

We shared with you at our Recharge Supper in February, our desire to see every small group "adopt" one of our mission partners.

Unsure what that looks like?

Read the next page, or email Cathy Gravitis at [cathy.gravitis@stpauls.church](mailto:cathy.gravitis@stpauls.church)

We currently have 5 mission partners to choose from – local, regional, and international. Visit [stpauls.church/missions](http://stpauls.church/missions) to see some info and an introductory video on each of their ministries which might help you to decide which one might be a good fit for your small group

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR MY GROUP TO ADOPT A MISSION PARTNER?

## **COMMITTED TO:**

1. Ongoing Prayer Support

## **PREFERRABLE BUT NOT ESSENTIAL:**

2. **Financial Support:** Beware, your faithful prayer support will often lead to financial support as prompted by the Holy Spirit!

3. **Ongoing Communication** with the link missionary  
Eg. Emails, video calls, birthday cards and letters etc

## **OPTIONAL**

4. **Practical support**

E.g. Assist with family needs during home assignment, sending surprise care packages.

5. **Mission awareness trips.**

## **Why should our Small Group/DTeam adopt a missionary?**

1. **It's good for you!**

- Feeds life and vitality into your relationship with God and the world. It encourages our faith and motivates us evangelistically to be a part of something greater than us – the building of God's Kingdom.
- Consider it another spiritual discipline. No spiritual discipline is easy. They require intentionality and sacrifice, but the spiritual dividends make it worth it.

2. **Essential for them!**

- Fights against the "out of mind, out of sight" phenomenon that often happens the longer our link missionary is away overseas or not visiting us at SPCH.
- Our mission partners are totally reliant on the prayers of God's people. Our prayers sustain them spiritually, physically, and emotionally as they often serve as "front-line soldiers" in hostile spiritual environments.
- Our prayers are key to the "unlocking" of the hearts of individuals to the truth of the gospel, by the power of the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:18)

## **HOW LONG IS THIS COMMITMENT FOR?**

Flexible! Minimum – 12 months, with a leaning towards 2 + years so as adequate time is given to the building of a personal relationship with your link missionary.

# TERM THREE SCHEDULE

**11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May**

God of Transforming Grace #1 –  
Grace Before Law

**What's on this week?**

May 11<sup>th</sup> – Men's Night

May 17<sup>th</sup> – Newcomers Lunch

May 17<sup>th</sup> – The Commons

**18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

God of Transforming Grace #2 –  
Grace that Leads to Love

**What's on this week?**

May 20<sup>th</sup> – Good News Prayer Meeting

May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Big Play Out

May 24<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost Sunday

**25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May**

God of Transforming Grace #3 –  
Grace for the Stubborn and the Broken

**What's on this week?**

May 26<sup>th</sup> – Prime Time

May 27<sup>th</sup> – State of Origin @ Church

May 30<sup>th</sup> – Legacy Partners Breakfast

May 31<sup>st</sup> – Jesus Club Church

May 31<sup>st</sup> – Baptism Sunday

**1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June**

God of Transforming Grace #4 –  
Grace that Shapes Community

**What's on this week?**

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – YA Pure Praise Night

June 6<sup>th</sup> – Help at Home

**8<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> June**

God of Transforming Grace #5 –  
Grace that Looks Forward

**What's on this week?**

June 13<sup>th</sup> – 45 In The Dark

June 14<sup>th</sup> – Step into Serving Fair

# LOOKING AHEAD

## **June Events**

June 17<sup>th</sup> – Women’s Night

June 21<sup>st</sup> – The Commons

June 26<sup>th</sup> – Hills Chillz

June 28<sup>th</sup> – Church Picnic

## **July Events**

July 19<sup>th</sup> – The Commons

July 25<sup>th</sup> – Recharge Breakfast

July 26<sup>th</sup> – Dr Darrell L. Bock Guest Speaker

July 28<sup>th</sup> – Whole Church Teaching Night

July 31<sup>st</sup> – Crossfire Term 3 Starts

## **Dr Darrell L. Bock**

\* Dr Darrell L. Bock will be joining us at St Paul’s Castle Hill in July. He is a Senior Research Professor of New Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary and Executive Director of Cultural Engagement at the Hendricks Center. He has authored or edited more than 45 books and has written for major outlets including the Los Angeles Times.

He will be speaking at the following events:

### **Recharge Breakfast – July 25**

A training morning for small group leaders as we prepare to begin our series in Galatians. All are welcome.

### **Sunday Services – July 26**

### **Whole Church Teaching Night – July 28**

An opportunity for our whole church to gather, be encouraged, and be challenged from God’s word.



# SERIES INTRODUCTION

## GOD OF TRANSFORMING GRACE

Deuteronomy is a covenant renewal shaped by God's faithfulness, a call to remember His grace and live in light of it. It looks back over His saving acts and forward with hope.

In these five weeks we will follow God's grace as He shapes identity, worship, and practical life for His people, calling them to reflect Him in the world.

"Deuteronomy" means "second law", not a new law but a restating of God's word for a people already rescued. Here, law is not set against love; it flows from it. God rescues His people from slavery in Egypt; His commands come as a call to new life that flows from that rescue. The aim is not moral achievement but transformed hearts: people who love the Lord, love one another, and live distinctively as a testimony to God's faithfulness.

Across this series we will see the same pattern: grace precedes obligation, grace empowers faithful living, grace disciplines and restores, grace reorients economic and social life, and grace points forward to final renewal.

Each week we will read, reflect, and consider how the God who went before His people Israel also goes before us, His people of the new covenant, calling us into a relationship that changes how we worship, serve, and live as people transformed by His grace.

*When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, he said to them, "Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess."*

**Deuteronomy 32:45-47**



## GOD OF TRANSFORMING GRACE - STUDY #1

# GRACE BEFORE LAW

## DEUTERONOMY 1:1-8; 1:26-36; 4:1-2

*All Leaders notes to help you guide these studies are in bold and italic to help you.*

### WELCOME

What stood out to you most from Sunday? As we started a new series, did it raise any questions for you?

### EXPLORE

#### **Brief Context:**

Deuteronomy is the fifth book of the Bible and the final book of the Torah. After God rescued Israel from Egypt, they spent a year at Mount Sinai as He established His covenant with them. From there, Israel began their journey through the wilderness toward the Promised Land. However, because of their unbelief and unfaithfulness, the generation that experienced the exodus did not enter the land.

In Deuteronomy, Moses addresses a new generation on the edge of the Promised Land. He retells their story and re-presents God's law, calling them to live faithfully under the covenant He has already established with them as they prepare to enter the Promised Land.

**Read Deuteronomy 1:1-8**

1. What do the opening verses (v1–5) tell us about Moses' audience, their location, and what he is about to speak about?  
**Don't let this run too long. Aim to establish orientation, not explore every detail. "All Israel" refers to the generation preparing to enter the Promised Land.**

**The location (v1–2, v5) and the victories over Sihon and Og (v4) show that Israel is on the edge of the Promised Land, east of the Jordan. They have not yet entered Canaan but have already begun to take possession of land God has given them.**

**These verses show that Moses is speaking God's commands to Israel and beginning to explain the law to this new generation.**

2. In v6–8, Moses summarises what God said to Israel at Horeb over that period. What does he highlight in this summary, and why might he begin here?

**Movement: "You have stayed long enough, break camp and advance"**

**Promise: "See, I have given you this land"**

**Command: "Go in and take possession"**

**God has spoken clearly, the land was promised, Israel's role was to trust and obey.**

### **Read Deuteronomy 1:26–29**

3. What went wrong when Israel reached the land, and what does that reveal about their response to God?

**When Israel reached the borders of the Promised Land, they sent spies in to get a report of what was before them. When the spies returned with reports of strong people and established defences, Israel reacted in fear to what was ahead rather than with faith in what God has promised them.**

### **Read Deuteronomy 1:30–36**

4. What does Moses highlight about God's actions, and how do the people respond? What is God's response in return?

**Moses highlights God's rescue, promise, and reassurance. God is for His people and faithful to His promises. Israel fails to trust Him, and God responds with righteous judgment.**

### **Read Deuteronomy 4:1–2**

5. In 4:1–2, who is being addressed, and what responsibility is being placed on them?

**Deuteronomy 4:1–2 is addressed to the new generation, but it restates God’s covenant, so they understand it as their own responsibility as they enter the land.**

## REFLECT

6. Why do you think Moses speaks about the previous generation using “us” and “you”? What effect would that have on those listening?

**Moses speaks this way to make it clear this is not just their parents’ story, but their own. This language personalises both the failure and the promise, placing the current generation under the same covenant, with both its blessings and its responsibilities.**

7. This series is focused on God’s grace, where do we see God’s grace in each of these passages?

**1:1–8: God has already given the land and calls His people to go and take possession. The promised gift comes before their action.**

**1:26–36: Despite Israel’s refusal, God had gone before them, fought for them, and carried them. Even in judgment, His prior grace is clear. 4:1–2: God speaks again to this new generation, giving them His law and calling them to life as they enter the land.**

8. What separates Caleb from those facing judgment in v36? How does that shape what trusting God’s promises looks like?

**Caleb follows the LORD wholeheartedly, trusting God’s promise despite the visible obstacles. His response shows that real trust in God is expressed in obedient action, even when circumstances make that difficult.**

## APPLY

9. Before Israel was called to act, what had God already done for them in these passages? How does this connect with what we see in Romans 5:6–8 and shape our response?

**God’s grace precedes any action from Israel. He had already given them the land, gone before them, fought for them, and carried them. God is for His people before they act for Him. In the same way, Romans 5:6–8 shows that God demonstrates His love for us while we are still sinners, before we seek Him. Our response is not to earn God’s favour, but to live with thankful confidence in His grace as the foundation for all we have and how we live.**

10. Israel had God's promise but still responded with fear. Where do you see that same tension in your own life?

***Help the group sit in the reality of everyday fear versus trust. The visible realities we face can make it difficult to trust God's promises. This tension shows up in many areas of life, so push for specific, concrete situations rather than abstract answers.***

## PRAY

Take time to share and pray together in response to the passage, for each other's needs, and for the missionary, events, and weekly ministries at St Paul's.

## MISSION AND EVANGELISM PRAYER POINTS

### **Soul Eats Kitchen**

Praise God for the growing community who gather together for dinner each Mon night at Kellyville Anglican. Praise God that those facing financial challenges can be well fed within community without drawing attention to their need. Pray for both care and gospel opportunities.

**James & Charly Boardman** – Holy Trinity, Kelso with BCA.

Praise God for the 16 non-Christians who came along to their Taste and See Banquet in March and that two of them have attended church since. Pray for love and wisdom for James and Charly as they follow up the rest.

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

May 11<sup>th</sup> – Men's Night

May 17<sup>th</sup> – Newcomers Lunch

May 17<sup>th</sup> – The Commons

## COMING UP

We have **baptisms on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May**, please prayerfully consider if this is for you. If you would like to be baptised please reach out to any staff at our Sunday services, or let us know at [stpauls.church/connect](http://stpauls.church/connect).

## GOD OF TRANSFORMING GRACE - STUDY #2

# GRACE THAT LEADS TO LOVE

## DEUTERONOMY 6:1-25

### WELCOME

What stood out or raised questions for you from Sunday's passage and sermon?

### EXPLORE

#### **Brief Context:**

As Israel prepares to enter the Promised Land, they are moving from the uncertainty of the wilderness into a time of settlement and stability, bringing new challenges for their trust and faithfulness.

#### **Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

1. What laws is Moses referring to in v1 and where are they to be lived out?

***"These commands" refer to the law God had already given at Sinai, now restated by Moses for a new generation as they prepare to enter and live in the land.***

*Note: Deuteronomy 6:4-5 is known as the "Shema." The word Shema comes from the first word of v4 in Hebrew and means "hear." It is both a call to listen and respond, and a central confession of Israel's faith.*

2. What connection do you see between who God is in v4 and what He calls His people to do in v5?

***The Shema is not simply a confession of belief about who God is, but a declaration of truth that shapes how we live.***

***This is an opportunity to explore what “the LORD is one” means. It declares that Yahweh alone is God, the one true God. Don’t answer this too quickly, let the group discuss first. If Yahweh alone is God, then He rightly deserves wholehearted and undivided love.***

3. What are the everyday rhythms that flow from this confession of faith?

***God’s commands are to be written on the heart, taught to children, spoken about in ordinary conversation across the day, and reinforced through physical reminders on the body and around the home.***

### **Read Deuteronomy 6:10–25**

4. What is Israel looking forward to, and why does that lead to the warning in v12?

***Israel is looking forward to entering the Promised Land, a place of prosperity and blessing. They are warned not to forget God in a time of abundance. The human heart is easily drawn to what is in front of us, rather than remembering God.***

5. How is God described in v14, and does that challenge or fit with how you think about God?

***Don’t soften God’s jealousy. We often view jealousy as a negative emotion, so hearing it used of God should create a tension to sit in. Let the group sit with that before resolving it.***

### **REFLECT**

6. In v20–25, what reason does Moses give for obedience, and what does he say obedience will lead to?

***God’s rescue and grace lead to obedience, and obedience leads to life and blessing.***

7. Israel is warned about forgetting God in times of comfort and blessing. Where are we most at risk of doing the same and why?

***We live in a context of comfort, security, and constant entertainment. It is easy to place our value in things like wealth, education, and comfort, and in doing so, forget God. Push your group past surface answers and explore the underlying reasons why?***

8. In v18, what does it mean to do what is “right and good”? Is there a difference between the two?

***To do what is “right” is to be aligned with God’s commands, and to do what is “good” is to be aligned with His character. These are not separate, but belong together.***

***Encourage the group to reflect on what goodness might look like, not just in following commands, but in lives aligned with God’s character.***

***When there isn’t a direct command, how does knowing God’s character shape what is good? Character doesn’t replace command, but flows from it and fills the gaps.***

## **APPLY**

9. God is described as jealous for His people. Do you believe He is jealous for you, and what competes for your loyalty to Him?

***“Do you believe He is jealous for you?” is the key part of this question. Help the group sit in this. We do not simply become Christians from our point of view, God claims us as His. Israel is told clearly what prompts God’s jealousy; for us it may be our obsession with comfort, our dependence on wealth, or our love of consumerism.***

10. In this passage, God’s commands are relational, not just rules. What does it mean for His commands to be on our hearts, and what might it look like for them to shape our homes and daily lives? Read Titus 2:11-14 as you discuss.

***The law and relationship with God are not separate. Obedience is the response to the grace of God. We can find joy in following God’s commands as an expression of our relationship with Him.***

## PRAY

Take time to share and pray together in response to the passage, for each other's needs, and for the missionary, events, and weekly ministries at St Paul's.

## MISSION AND EVANGELISM PRAYER POINTS

### **SRE (Special Religious Education)**

Give thanks for the 17 children who came to Easter Camp through SRE. Praise God that they were able to hear the gospel clearly proclaimed. Pray for an increasing thirst for knowing Jesus and becoming like him.

### **Margaret** - with ENC in South West Sydney

Praise God for the many visitors to the Peace Tent during Ramadan. Pray for Margaret as she continues to meet up one to one with some of the women visitors. Pray that the Spirit of God would soften the hearts of these women to joyfully receive Bible stories about the Prince of Peace.

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

May 20<sup>th</sup> - Good News Prayer Meeting

May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Big Play Out

May 24<sup>th</sup> - Pentecost Sunday

## COMING UP

We have **baptisms on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May**, please prayerfully consider if this is for you. If you would like to be baptised please reach out to any staff at our Sunday services, or let us know at [stpauls.church/connect](http://stpauls.church/connect).

## GOD OF TRANSFORMING GRACE - STUDY #3

# GRACE FOR THE STUBBORN AND THE BROKEN

## DEUTERONOMY 9:1-12; 10:12-16

### WELCOME

What stood out to you from Sunday's passage and sermon?

### EXPLORE

#### **Brief Context:**

In Deuteronomy 6, Israel were warned not to forget the LORD in times of abundance. In chapters 7-8, Moses reminds Israel of how and why God has chosen them. They were not chosen because of their size, strength, or righteousness, but because of God's love and His faithfulness to His promises.

Moses also reflects on their wilderness journey, where God provided for them and taught them that life comes from His word, not from their own strength.

#### **Read Deuteronomy 9:1-12**

1. What was the spies' report about the Anakites (1:28), how did Israel respond, and what was the result?

***The spies reported that the Anakites were large and powerful, presenting an overwhelming threat. The report produced fear that overruled trust in God, leading Israel to refuse the land, resulting in judgment, and a whole generation missing the promise.***

2. What is being communicated in v3, and how does Israel's history change how we hear it?

***Israel is being reminded of God's power and that He will deliver what He has promised, regardless of the strength of the enemy before them. This matters because God is offering comfort as this generation faces the same obstacle that caused their ancestors to stumble.***

3. For Israel, the land is a gift, but for the nations it is judgment. What do v4–6 show us about how to understand this?

***These verses show that the nations are being judged for their wickedness, not simply displaced for Israel's sake, and that Israel is not receiving the land because of their own righteousness.***

4. What would Israel be tempted to believe about themselves if they successfully take the land? How does Moses confront that in v4–12?

***Israel would be tempted to see the gift of the Promised Land as evidence of their own righteousness. Moses confronts this by showing that their history rules out any claim to deserving the land.***

## REFLECT

### Read Deuteronomy 10:12–16

5. What stands out about God's character in these chapters as He deals with both Israel and the nations?

***Encourage your group to spend time here and push past surface answers. In these chapters, God's incredible patience and grace stand alongside His righteous judgment. His unrelenting faithfulness to His people and His promises stands in contrast to their ongoing unfaithfulness. We also see His power and authority over the highest heavens, and His purpose to bring blessing through one small nation.***

6. Despite their unworthiness, Israel is still receiving the Promised Land. What kind of response and relationship with God is described in 10:12–13?

***These are familiar words for Israel. They are again called to be in awe of God, to recognise all He has done, and in response to be faithful to Him in action and to love Him deeply from the heart. Faithful living and heartfelt love cannot be separated; together they are the response to God's grace.***

## APPLY

7. What would “circumcise your hearts” have meant to Moses’ audience, and what does it mean for us today?

***“Circumcise your hearts” draws on the sign of circumcision as a mark of belonging to God's people. Here it is applied inwardly, calling for the removal of stubbornness and resistance to God. It is a call for an inner change, a heart that is open, responsive, and rightly focused on Him. For us, it speaks to the same reality: God is not after external behaviour alone, but hearts that are changed and responsive to Him. This is a call Israel cannot fulfil on their own, exposing their need for God to change their hearts.***

8. What challenge would Israel have felt from Moses’ words, and how do we share in that?

***Israel would have felt the weight of being called to wholehearted obedience after being reminded of their persistent failure. The challenge is not just what to do, but the posture of their hearts before God. We share that same tension, called to respond fully to God's grace while knowing our tendency to resist Him at a heart level.***

9. Likewise, what comfort would Israel have taken from these chapters, and how do we share in that?

***Avoid simple “God loves us” answers. Israel has been told clearly that they are unworthy of the blessings before them. In the same way, what is promised to us is beyond our comprehension, and we are no more worthy. Israel is comforted by knowing that it is God's grace and God's work that will bring them into this blessing, just as it is for us. We can have confidence because our future is grounded in God's gracious character and His promise, not in our actions or righteousness. This is a humbling but secure comfort, one that leaves no room for boasting or comparison.***

## PRAY

Take time to share and pray together in response to the passage, for each other's needs, and for the missionary, events, and weekly ministries at St Paul's.

## MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM PRAYER POINTS

### **John & Fiona** – SIM in South Asia

Please pray for Fiona and her local colleague, "J" as they have recently started a number of Women's Bible study groups in three different areas of their host country. Pray for the leaders who are growing in competency. Pray for the participants to have a deeper understanding of how the Old Testament fits with the message of the gospel.

### **Anglicare**

Praise God that during our current cost of living crisis, Anglicare can provide immediate relief and long-term capacity building for individuals and families experiencing financial hardship. Pray for generous donors to fund this love of Christ in action ministry.

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

May 26<sup>th</sup> – Prime Time

May 27<sup>th</sup> – State of Origin @ Church

May 30<sup>th</sup> – Legacy Partners Breakfast

May 31<sup>st</sup> – Jesus Club Church

May 31<sup>st</sup> – Baptism Sunday

## GOD OF TRANSFORMING GRACE - STUDY #4

# GRACE THAT SHAPES COMMUNITY

## DEUTERONOMY 15:1-15

### WELCOME

What stood out to you from Sunday's passage and sermon?

### EXPLORE

#### **Brief Context:**

Moses has been focusing on Israel's history and heart, exposing their failure to remain faithful despite God's grace. Israel has been confronted with God's grace and called to respond in love and obedience. Chapter 12 begins a shift to more detailed laws, showing how the heart God commands in chapter 10 is expressed in every area of life.

#### **Read Deuteronomy 15:1-15**

1. Divide into groups and assign one passage to each group. In your groups ask: what is being commanded of Israel, and what reason is given for these commands?

- verse 1-3
- verse 4-6
- verse 7-9
- verse 10-11
- verse 12-15

Share your responses as you come back together.

**Keep this section brief. Help the group identify the commands and keep pressing them to see the reason behind each command.**

2. As you look across these commands, what would have to be true of Israel to truly live this out?

**Encourage the group to feel the cost of this and the kind of heart this would require.**

## REFLECT

3. If Israel has been redeemed by God, what does it reveal about them if they refuse to be open-handed?

**This question grounds the rest of the section. Don't rush it. Let the weight of what their refusal reveals about their response to God's grace sit.**

4. In v9, even the thought of withholding is called sin. What does this reveal about the difference between keeping the letter of the law and the heart of God's command? Where might we keep the letter of God's commands while avoiding their intent?

**This remains a present issue for us. Press the group to see that we can obey outwardly while still resisting what God actually wants.**

5. V11 says "there will always be poor," yet v4 says "there should be no poor." How is Israel meant to hold these together?

**Don't resolve this too quickly. Help the group sit in the tension. Encourage them to consider what God is commanding (v4) alongside the reality He acknowledges (v11), and how both shape Israel's responsibility to act.**

6. Given this, do you think Israel is able to live this way?

**Don't rush to answer this. Let the tension sit and allow different responses to surface. Listen for what this reveals about the gap between what God commands and what Israel can do.**

## APPLY

7. If this is the kind of heart God requires, where do these commands confront the way we think about money, security, and responsibility?

**Help the group consider specific areas of life. Listen for how we value security, control, and self-protection. These commands challenge how we naturally think about what we have.**

8. The heart of this chapter is, grace received, generosity commanded. Where have you received God's grace and blessing, and where does that call you to costly generosity? **Keep grace received leading to generosity central. Encourage people to name specific ways they have received God's grace, not just general ideas. The focus here is how grace shapes what we do with what we have.**

9. Israel lived this out within a defined national community. In the New Testament, God's people are no longer a nation in the same way. How should this kind of generosity take shape among us now? (Optional: Acts 4:33–35)

**Help the group see the shift from Israel as a nation to God's people now, without losing the need for concrete expression. Move the group toward real, visible community rather than abstract generosity.**

10. We are not simply meant to be recipients of God's grace; rather, we are to be transformed by it and become expressions of it. What stops us from living this way?

**Don't rush this, let this question expose the gap between what we know and how we live. These points will help lead into a time of prayer.**

## PRAY

Take time to share and pray together in response to the passage, for each other's needs, and for the missionary, events, and weekly ministries at St Paul's.

## MISSION AND EVANGELISM PRAYER POINTS

### **Sports Chaplaincy**

Praise God for our five sports chaplains who are present each week at various sporting clubs and venues. Pray that their care conversations with both players, family members and spectators would become gospel conversations. Pray that they'd know God's wisdom for any of the critical incidents they must deal with; on or off the field, and in supporting club members in their personal lives.

### **IJM (International Justice Mission)**

Praise God for supporters choosing to run in the City2Surf in August for IJM. Pray that they'd be successful in raising greater awareness for IJM and in fundraising, to fuel IJM's efforts in protecting people in poverty from violence.

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

June 3<sup>rd</sup> - YA Pure Praise Night

June 6<sup>th</sup> - Help at Home

## GOD OF TRANSFORMING GRACE - STUDY #5

# GRACE THAT LOOKS FORWARD

## DEUTERONOMY 30:11-20; 31:1-8

### WELCOME

What stood out to you from Sunday's passage and sermon?

### EXPLORE

#### **Brief Context:**

Deuteronomy 30-31 sits at the climax of Moses' speeches. Chapters 1-11 focus on Israel's history and heart, 12-26 apply the law to life, and 27-28 set out the consequences of obedience and disobedience: life and blessing, or curse and exile. In chapter 29, Israel's future failure is anticipated, before chapter 30 speaks of the restoration that will follow. These chapters bring everything together in a final call to choose life.

#### **Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20; 31:1-8**

1. What is Israel being called to do, and what reason is given for this command being "not too difficult" for them?

***Help the group see that the command is near and available to them, not distant or hidden.***

2. What choice is set before Israel in v15-20, and what are the results of each?

***Lead the group past the first answer and explore the different ways this choice and its outcomes are expressed.***

3. As Moses steps aside and Joshua leads, what is Israel ultimately being told to rely on?

**Help the group move beyond the simple answer of “God” and explore what relying on Him actually looks like.**

4. If this command is “not too difficult,” why has Israel consistently failed to live this way?

**Spend some time holding together the claim that the command is “not too difficult” with Israel’s repeated failure, and draw them back to what this reveals about the deeper problem.**

## REFLECT

5. As we come to the end of Deuteronomy, what have we seen about God and Israel’s response to Him, and how do we see that repeated here?

**Allow different observations to surface. Draw the group toward the broader pattern of God’s grace and Israel’s response.**

6. If Israel has been told to choose life, but their failure has already been exposed, how are we meant to hold those together?

**Help the group hold together the call to choose and Israel’s consistent failure. Draw them back to what this suggests about the problem.**

7. Earlier in chapter 30 (v6), God promises to change their hearts. How does that shape how we understand this call to choose?

**Help the group connect this to the previous tension. If needed, draw out how God’s promise to change their hearts shapes their ability to respond.**

## APPLY

8. God's word is described here as near and understandable. What difference should that make to how we respond to God?

**Help the group reflect on how access to God's word has shaped them, and where they may have neglected or ignored it.**

9. Romans 10:5–13 picks up this passage. What does it add to our understanding of what it means to "choose life"?

**Obedience is called for within the framework of grace not merit. Keep the focus on how grace shapes obedience. Allow time for the group to work through what this passage adds.**

10. What does our failure to consistently choose God reveal about what we need?

**Help the group see both our similarity to Israel and what our failure reveals about what we need.**

As we close this series, take a few minutes to reflect on the past weeks and write down:

- Something you have learned about God's character
- Something that has encouraged you
- Something that has challenged you
- One specific action you will take in response

## PRAY

Take time to share and pray together in response to the passage, for each other's needs, and for the missionary, events, and weekly ministries at St Paul's.

## MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM PRAYER POINTS

### **Chris & Erin** - CMS in South East Asia

When Chris and Erin return to SE Asia after their baby is born later this year, they will be moving to a new location where they expect to encounter much spiritual opposition. Pray that the Spirit of God would soften the hearts and minds of the people there, and that Chris and Erin would have confidence that "the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds." (2 Cor 10:4)

### **Compassion**

Pray that the Lord would have his hand on bringing together the right people to form the team going on the church Insight Trip to see the work of Compassion in Masbate, Philippines in Jan, 2027.

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

June 13<sup>th</sup> - 45 In The Dark

June 14<sup>th</sup> - Step into Serving Fair

# LOOKING AHEAD

## **June Events**

June 17<sup>th</sup> - Women's Night

June 21<sup>st</sup> - The Commons

June 26<sup>th</sup> - Hills Chillz

June 28<sup>th</sup> - Church Picnic

## **July Events**

July 19<sup>th</sup> - The Commons

July 25<sup>th</sup> - Recharge Breakfast

July 26<sup>th</sup> - Dr Darrell L. Bock Guest Speaker

July 28<sup>th</sup> - Whole Church Teaching Night

July 31<sup>st</sup> - Crossfire Term 3 Starts

**small**  
**groups**  
LIFE TOGETHER

