

## GRACE THAT TEACHES

Are you part of any groups that meet from time-to-time, perhaps a sports group, or a hobby, or a community group? What do you have in common? Is there anything that is important to your 'group culture'?

Titus is a short letter about how to 'do life' as groups of people who trust Jesus (ie, Christian maturity). As the Apostle Paul writes to Titus (a church leader), he gives instructions about establishing other leaders in church groups (chapter 1), and the importance of teaching and godly character (chapter 2). In chapter 2, verses 11-14, he gives the reasons for these instructions (2:11 begins with the linking word 'for').

### **Read Titus 2:11-15.**

Verse 11 says that the 'Grace of God' has appeared. Looking carefully at the passage, write down all the things that this 'grace' does (including the verse number).

This passage also describes Jesus as someone who will 'appear' in the future (verse 13). Looking through this passage again

Write down the titles are given to Jesus in this passage.

What has Jesus done?

How is Jesus linked to the appearing of God's grace? With the person next to you, try to draw a flow diagram explaining the passage. You should try to include as many of the ideas from the lists above as possible.

Share your diagrams with the group. Discuss as a group what you think the passage tells us that the goal of God's grace appearing is.

Verse 12 states that God's grace 'teaches us' (NIV) or is 'training us' (ESV).

What are we being trained to do? (or be?)

Why might it be important that we are being trained by 'grace', rather than by the opposite?

How does this passage suggest that we should live right now? What should we be doing?

In light of this, share some suggestions for how your growth group can help each other do these things this year.

Things we can do:

Things we can regularly pray for:

Pray now about these things.

Grace that saves; grace that teaches; grace that persists, and grace that hopes are big themes in John Newton's famous hymn. You might want to reflect on these words anew this week. Perhaps you could even try singing a few verses as a group.

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.*

John Newton (1779). Public Domain

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.*