



CELL GROUP MATERIAL

23 AUGUST 2026

23 AUGUST SERMON

God's Love

PASTOR TIMOTHY PETERS

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Based on a sermon from John 3:16 and Luke 10:25-37

Overview

This cell material is designed to help your cell move from hearing the message to living it out. The sermon explored how the love of God is not passive or distant, but active and pursuing. Using the parable of the Good Samaritan as a lens, we examined how grace sees people in their condition, moves toward them, and stays with them through the process of restoration.

Key Takeaways

- 1. Grace sees beyond the surface.** God does not simply recognize our presence. He sees our condition, our burden, and our potential. His seeing moves Him to act.
 - 2. Grace closes the distance.** Just as the Samaritan moved toward the wounded man rather than away from him, God robed Himself in flesh and came to where humanity was. He did not wait for us to become worthy.
 - 3. Grace stays through the process.** The Samaritan did not simply stop and move on. He bound wounds, provided care, secured lodging, and promised to return. God's grace is not a single moment. *It walks with us through transformation.*
 - 4. Receiving grace creates responsibility.** Those who have experienced grace are called to extend it. The people God has placed within our reach are not interruptions to our lives. They may be divine assignments.
 - 5. No one has exhausted God's grace.** Whether someone is coming to God for the first time, returning after wandering, or struggling under the weight of repeated failure, the reach of grace is greater than the reach of sin. Romans 5:8 reminds us that God demonstrated His love toward us while we were still sinners.
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Opening Question

- Think of a time when someone went out of their way for you when you did not expect it and had not asked for it. What did that feel like, and what did it communicate to you about that person?
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Discussion Questions

Section 1: Grace Sees

The sermon drew a distinction between two kinds of seeing. One kind simply acknowledges that someone is present. The other kind allows what we see to affect us and move us.

- The priest and the Levite both saw the wounded man, yet neither stopped. What do you think kept them from responding? Do you recognize any of those same tendencies in yourself?
 - The sermon made the point that a person can sit in a room full of people and still feel completely unseen. Have you ever experienced that? What would it have meant to you in that moment to know that God truly saw your condition?
 - How does knowing that God sees beyond our outward appearance — beyond the smile we put on and the answers we give — change the way you approach Him in prayer?
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Section 2: Grace Moves

The sermon emphasized that God did not observe humanity's brokenness from a distance and simply feel sympathy. He moved toward us. John 1:14 describes the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us.

- In what ways does it change your understanding of God to know that He came to where we were rather than waiting for us to find our way to Him?
 - The sermon noted that it is easier to wait for a struggling person to ask for help, for a new person to introduce themselves to us, or for a wandering believer to come back before we reach out. Why do you think that kind of waiting feels more comfortable? What does it cost the people around us when we default to that posture?
 - Romans 5:8 tells us that Christ died for us before we even recognized our need for a savior. How does this truth reshape the way you think about the people in your life who do not yet know God?
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Section 3: Grace Stays

The Samaritan did not simply stop at the side of the road. He bound wounds, secured care, stayed through the night, and made a promise to return. What began as an interruption became a sustained investment.

- The sermon made a clear distinction between helping someone through a moment and walking with someone through a process. What does that difference look like in practical terms within your relationships?
 - Think about your own spiritual journey. Have there been seasons where growth was slow, where you repeated the same lessons, or where you needed someone to stay with you through a difficult process? How did God's patience, and perhaps the patience of the fellow believer who journeyed with you, in those seasons shape you?
 - The sermon stated that discipleship is not simply getting somebody to an altar. It is being willing to walk with them after they leave the altar. What does that kind of commitment require of us? What might make it difficult, and how do we work through those difficulties?
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Section 4: Our Response

- The sermon closed with a challenging question: who did you walk by? Without placing guilt on one another, take an honest look at your current relationships and circles of influence. Is there someone God may have placed within your reach who needs to experience grace through you?
 - The sermon reminded us that we do not need to have all the answers or feel spiritually mature enough. The promise is that God will provide the words and the means when we are willing to respond. What is one specific step you could take this week to move toward someone rather than past them?
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Practical Applications

These are not meant to be completed all at once. Choose one or two to focus on this week.

1. Practice intentional seeing. Before your next church gathering, make a decision in advance to look for someone who appears to be on the edges — someone new, someone quiet, someone who seems to be carrying something. Introduce yourself and ask a question that goes beyond surface-level small talk.

2. Make a phone call you have been putting off. Think of someone you have noticed has been absent, struggling, or distant. Do not wait for them to come to you. Make the call, send the message, or show up. Let them know they have not gone unnoticed.

3. Reflect on your own experience of grace. Set aside time this week to journal or pray through the moments in your life when God's grace came to you before you were looking for it, or stayed

with you when you did not deserve it. Let that reflection stir gratitude and fuel generosity toward others.

4. Identify one person to invest in over time. Rather than a one-time act of kindness, consider whether there is someone in your life who needs a sustained relationship — someone to walk with them, not just pray for them from a distance. Ask God to show you who that person might be and what the first step looks like.

5. Examine what your interruptions might really be. For one week, when your plans are disrupted by a person or an unexpected need, pause before reacting with frustration. Ask the question: is this an inconvenience, or is this an invitation?

Closing Reflection

The sermon grounded everything in a simple but profound truth from John 3:16 — God loved, and because God loved, God gave. His love was not an emotion held at a distance. It moved. It crossed every barrier, entered into our condition, and stayed until the work was finished.

We who have received that grace are now His representatives in the world. The people around us are not obstacles to our schedule. They are the very reason grace was extended to us in the first place.

Close your time together in prayer. Ask God to open your eyes to see people the way He sees them, to give you the courage to move toward them rather than past them, and to grant you the patience to stay with them through the process.
