

GRACE Week 2022

Here are some ways we would like our extended TCS community to join us for GRACE Week:

1. **PRAY:** Please pray for our students' hearts as they are bombarded by so many conflicting messages in our fallen world. The media outlets, typically promoting something other than God's will, are as relentless as they are ubiquitous in our daily lives. Many of these repetitive messages are anchored in atheistic social engineering not remotely rooted in God and His word. We must together pray that our students' hearts will be open and receptive to the truths found in God's word. Also, please pray for our teachers who are organically sharing a Christian worldview on a daily basis and pray for our Bible teachers who are tasked with facilitating the momentous teachings during GRACE Week. Thanks, in advance.
2. **DISCUSS:** Have discussions at home about our broken world and your family's possible impact to transform it. Share the dangers of non-christian worldviews and their distortions. Challenge one another to explore what we can do as a family to fight for God's view of human worth? Dignity? Equality? How can we show relentless grace to God's differing image-bearers while still upholding God's word against modern secularism? How can we tangibly build bridges across racial lines and poverty lines? What are some concrete ways we can promote truth and justice for all men? Etc. May the Holy Spirit lead your intentional discussions specifically relevant to your own family. Know that TCS, through our core academic and Bible departments, are partnering with you in these consequential matters.
3. **EXAMINE:** It is imperative that we root our worldviews in scripture. It is critical that all of us are citizens of heaven while we bring God's reign to wherever we might live on earth. We must guarantee that our allegiance to God is never compromised by any other presence or movement or allegiance. Only in this way can we enjoy what we each hope for...heaven's reign in our daily world.

Here is a scriptural starting point for your further examination:

- a. **Gender** - Both sexes are made in the image of God (Gen.1:26-28). Discuss how each gender, though equal in value, has been given some unique functions and responsibilities (Eph.5:21-33). Discuss the fact that there is no human difference that prevents us from coming to God or limits us to a second class access to God (Gal.3:26-29).
- b. **Race** - If Adam had a family reunion we would all be there because we are all family (Gen.1). If Noah had a family reunion we would all be there because we are all family (Gen.6-10). The origin of fragmented humanity and its dysfunctional aftermath started at the tower of Babel (Gen.11:1-9). Discuss how God began to reverse this curse at Pentecost (Acts 2). Discuss what God's goal is for eternity (Rev.5:9; 7:9-17). Does God want us to eliminate our distinctions or unite them, celebrate them, and

surrender them to His glory? How can we facilitate better race relations in the ways that God has envisioned?

- c. **Ability/disability** - Take a look at the story of Mephibosheth and how Israel's greatest king loved a handicapped man (2 Sam.9:1-13; Cf. 2 Sam.4:4). What can we discern from this powerful example of grace? Another possible family study angle would be to read the account of the leper (Lk.5:12-16). Why did Jesus touch the leper when He could have healed the leper without touching him? What does this teach us about connecting to those who are disabled?
- d. **Culture** - Is God's goal to destroy culture or destroy sin in each culture? The question is quite significant. If the seas are a kaleidoscopic aquarium and the skies are swarming with robust diversity and God has clothed the earth with crazy collections of ecosystem-sharing animals then why would we expect less from our Creator when it comes to humanity. God is glorified in variegated cultural nuances. Every culture can bring glory to God but every culture is tainted by sin (Rom.3:23). How can we embrace the beautiful in every culture while together defeating sin in each culture?
- e. **Economics** - Examine through a Bible concordance the plethora of passages and stories for God's care for the widow, the orphan, the stranger, the outcast, and the poor. It is mind boggling how many scriptures there are. Here are some examples (Ex.22:22-23; James 1:27; Dt.15:7-11; Ps.68:5). See what scriptures you can discover.

We hope some of these prompts and stories can help you in your own living rooms and kitchen tables as you lead your families to the GRACE-heart of God and as you participate with us in spirit through our GRACE Week. Thanks in advance.