

When Grace Comes Home The Gift of Presence – Part 1

**Life Church St. Louis December 7, 2025
Lead Pastor Dan Walker, PhD, MDiv**

Introduction

John 6:37 (ESV) All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

Psalm 34:18 (ESV) The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Ephesians 2:13 (ESV) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

1. Grace Finds Us Where We Are

Luke 19:2–4 (ESV) ... there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way.

Psalm 139:1–2 (ESV) O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

Luke 15:4 (ESV) What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?

2. Grace Brings Us into Relationship

Luke 19:5–6 (ESV) And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.

Revelation 3:20 (ESV) Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Ephesians 2:19 (ESV) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

John 15:12 (ESV) This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

3. Grace Transforms the House

Luke 19:8–10 (ESV) And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Titus 2:11–12 (ESV) For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

Acts 2:46–47 (ESV) And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people.

When Grace Comes Home Study Guide

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Introduction

1. When you think about the phrase “God with us,” what do you hope that actually looks like in your home and your week?
2. What does Jesus’ promise of never rejecting those who come to Him change about the way you approach Him today (John 6:37)?
3. Where have you recently felt broken or crushed, and how might noticing the Lord’s nearness in that place reshape your response (Psalm 34:18)?
4. In what ways does knowing you have been brought near by the blood of Christ deepen your gratitude and your confidence with God (Ephesians 2:13)?

1. Grace Finds Us Where We Are

1. What does Zacchaeus’ eagerness to see Jesus, despite his limitations, reveal about the ways grace awakens spiritual curiosity (Luke 19:2–4)?
2. How does God’s complete knowledge of you make the idea of being “found” by Him both humbling and freeing (Psalm 139:1–2)?
3. If Jesus leaves the ninety-nine to find the one, how does that shape your view of your own worth and the worth of those who seem far from God (Luke 15:4)?
4. Where do you sense God already seeking you this week, and what is one step you will take to stop hiding and let Him find you?

2. Grace Brings Us into Relationship

1. What stands out to you about Jesus inviting Himself into Zacchaeus’ home, and how does that challenge your expectations of how God relates to you (Luke 19:5–6)?

2. What door of your heart do you sense Jesus knocking on right now, and what would opening that door look like in practice (Revelation 3:20)?
3. How does becoming part of God’s household change your understanding of belonging and spiritual family (Ephesians 2:19)?
4. In what practical ways can you mirror Jesus’ love by choosing to love fellow believers, even when it is costly or inconvenient (John 15:12)?
5. Who in your church family could you intentionally include at your table or in your rhythms this week, and what invitation will you extend?

3. Grace Transforms the House

1. What does Zacchaeus’ immediate generosity and restitution teach us about the visible fruit of a changed heart (Luke 19:8–10)?
2. Where do you most need to live as a new creation, and what “old” pattern is God inviting you to leave behind today (2 Corinthians 5:17)?
3. How is grace training you right now to renounce a particular ungodly habit and to practice a new, godly one in its place (Titus 2:11–12)?
4. What rhythms of worship, community, and hospitality could you adopt to cultivate glad and generous hearts in your home group or family (Acts 2:46–47)?
5. If grace moved into your home in fresh ways this month, what would change first in your finances, your conversations, or your approach to forgiveness?

Conclusion

1. Where might there be an “empty chair” in your life that God is inviting you to set in faith for someone who needs to come home?
2. What is one concrete action you will take this week to welcome Jesus more fully into every room of your life?
3. Who is one person you will invite into your spiritual family, and what specific step will you take to make space for them?