

Grace Celebrated – Discussion Guide and Questions

Baptist Hui Main Session #1, Dunedin, 3 November 2016.

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Watch the video online www.lifelonglearning.nz/grace-celebrated (38 minutes)

The focus of the key-note sessions at the 2016 Baptist Hui was Grace. We wanted to celebrate together the amazing grace that has been entrusted to the Baptist churches in New Zealand.

Watch the online video of George Wieland and Andrew Picard introducing the Hui theme.

Take time to read the following definitions of the key-note topics and answer the questions provided.

Grace Embodied

Because it is by grace that we have been called into life together in Christ we shall seek to embody the grace of God in our communities of faith, drawing on our Baptist heritage of attentiveness together to Christ as the Head of His Body and mutuality of love and service as members of that Body.

1. In what ways do you think your faith community embodies the Grace of God? Make a list.
2. How would the wider community observe this embodiment?
3. How does the Gospel inspire you to action within your community?

Grace Discerned

Because we seek God's Kingdom on earth as in heaven we shall look for signs of His activity and seek to discern evidence of His grace in our communities, our nation, and our world, and align ourselves with His purpose to reconcile all things to Himself in Christ.

1. Discuss together your local community. In what places might God be working that is outside the local church?
2. Is this surprising to you? Why/why not?

Grace Unleashed

Because the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all, we shall offer ourselves and our resources for the unleashing of that grace into every aspect of our local, national and global contexts through authentic grace-trained lives, courageous witness, and creative expressions of mission and community.

1. Under the previous point you discerned unexpected places in your community where God is at work. Have a discussion on how you might practically join him in his work?
2. What things might you have to do differently to make this happen?

Grace Shared

Because we share together in the grace of God in bi-cultural partnership and in cultural diversity we will honour, receive from and offer to each other the gifts given to each part of Christ's Body for the good of all.

1. Spend some time thinking about your faith community. Who are the people, different from you, who have been graciously given gifts from God (think about the children, different gender, different ethnicity, different stage in life etc.)?
2. In what ways can you partner with them in the sharing of the Gospel within your community?
3. What might the impact be?

Grace Nurtured

Because gifts of God's grace have been bestowed on every member of the Body we shall value and nurture all of those gifts as we seek to prepare all of God's people for the service that each is given to fulfil for the glory of God and the realization of His Kingdom.

1. In what way might your faith community be burying a talent that has been given to you as a church? Go on, be brave and try and name them!
2. How can this wonderful gift of grace be nurtured?
3. Sit quietly and consider a person in your community that you might be able to nurture. Discuss together practical ways you might make this happen.