

## Leaders Meeting with Ps Phil Pringle

Sunday 2nd May, 4:30-5:30pm, Main Auditorium of Oxford Falls Campus. Childminding for 1 to 12 years available. All Connect Leaders, Assistants, Involved team leaders and members and anyone interested in becoming a leader welcome!

## Connect Group Notes 25 April 2010

### Amazing Grace – Ps Chris Pringle

**Ephesians 2:4-5 (NLT). "But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, <sup>5</sup> that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)"**

J. John's definition in his book - 'The Return of Grace':

**Grace** – unconditional kindness given to an undeserving recipient.

#### **G - Grace is a GIFT**

- To the receiver of grace it is free
- We do nothing to earn it – a gift is a gift
- Gift to be cherished, held, valued

#### **R - Grace is RADICAL- Mathew 5:38-40; John 8: 1-11**

- Grace is radical not rebellious – changes you around
- Radical thinker, Jesus was radical – healed on the Sabbath, messed with an existing code but exemplified kindness
- Whole new way of thinking, Jesus sits at the well and talks to the Samaritan woman when it was not what a Jew was meant to do
- This new radical grace and mercy upset people
- Radical grace and love will heal your heart and help you separate from things you have seen and done
- He addressed the crowd with the adulterous woman and lost religion but won a soul

#### **A - Grace is AVAILABLE – 2 Corinthians 12: 9-10**

- God's grace is but a prayer away, every moment, every day
- For salvation and to forgive others – needed not just for sin but to sustain us in life
- Pick it up and ask for it to overcome in an area and for ourselves
- Come into His presence - stop focusing on the handicap

#### **C - Grace COSTS – Luke 15 Story of the Prodigal Son**

- To the giver of grace it costs – Christ paid the price; He was the cost that the Father had to pay for our salvation to receive this gift of amazing grace.
- Father of the prodigal son paid the price of his reputation, honour and dignity by selling some of his estate in the beginning and by running to his son when he returned, running was an undignified

thing for men of the East to do. The prodigal son had bought dishonour and could have been stoned but the father showed grace even though it cost.

- Grace is not cheap, somebody pays the price at an uncomfortable cost

## **E - Grace is for EVERYONE**

- Everybody, the 'Cost' and 'Everyone' of grace come together and kiss!

### **John 3: 16**

**"For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.**

God has done it and all I have to do is receive it. Whosoever receives, not just for salvation but for their whole life. Helps us get through the day, through loss, sorrow, sickness, family and relationship breakdown. Love your enemies let them bring out the best in you not the worse – display a beautiful, radical grace. Go out and display grace through love that goes over and above, love that even confuses and surprises you.

We need Gods grace – it saves us but we need it to walk, get up, keep going and live. Sinners don't realise that Gods grace is there and we think if we are good we earn it. We are not saved by good works – doesn't mean we won't do good works but they don't save us, we can't take credit for it.

### TALK ABOUT

**His real grace is not weak but radical – quite harsh, wants us to forgive – can you recall the last time that you reached out with the grace of forgiveness?**

**It can be comfortable to love and show grace to our own race or social class but how do we handle being faced with the 'unlovable'? If this has been difficult for you in the past, how could it be different next time and why?**

**Life has difficulties, who feels like they can't do it in their own strength anymore? Let go and let God – how?**

### REPORTING

<http://myc3church.net/cgi-bin/exform.pl>

#### EveryWoman

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The second EveryWoman night for all 3 campuses is coming up on Thursday 6th May at 7.30pm! This year the EveryWoman nights will be on the same night at each campus, just with a different speaker. The Oxford Falls Campus will be hearing from Ps Chris Pringle which will be followed by a short film festival. The City Campus will be hearing from Ps Kirrily Lowe and that will be followed by a clothes swap. The Silverwater Campus will be hearing from Ps Vicki Simpson. Make sure you grab a card from the Concierge Desk and invite the all women you know!