

Prepare the Way for the Lord Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the recent sermons page at our website and at the Grantham Church Podcast the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, December 7th, 2025



Sermon Series Summary

This Advent season, we'll journey with John the Baptist—the prophet who prepared the way for Jesus' coming. Through his message of repentance, grace, and renewal, we'll discover what it means to prepare our hearts for Christ's arrival and to live as witnesses of his light. Each week invites us deeper into the hope, peace, joy, and love of Advent, leading to the celebration of Christ's birth and the call to let his life increase in us. Join us for this Advent-Christmas series, as we prepare the way for the Lord—then go forth as a people ready to follow Jesus and share his light with the world.

Sermon Title: God is Gracious

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:5-25, 57-80; Romans 2:3-4; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Peter 4:9-11

Sermon Focus: The story of John's birth reveals a God who works through the barren and broken to show his grace. As we can see with Zechariah and Elizabeth, repentance begins with receiving God's grace—because it's God's kindness that leads us to truly believe and turn things around. The season of Advent is rooted in divine mercy and grace, not human merit. In the second message of our series, Pastor David invites us to reflect on God's grace in our own lives and then extend that grace to others.

Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Begin by reading Luke 1:5-25 and then 57-80. What sticks out to you about this story of John the Baptist's birth to his old parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth? What do you find challenging and encouraging about this story?
2. Zechariah's journey went from doubt to silence to praise. Can you relate to that in your own life? How do you typically respond to seasons of disappointment or doubt, and how might Zechariah's story invite you to trust God differently?
3. In Christian theology, *grace* is the "free and undeserved help that God gives us"—a divine gift that humans cannot earn through their own merit or effort. Consider how God was gracious to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age. How have you seen God's grace at work in the lives of people around you?
4. Can you recall a time when God surprised *you* with grace—answering a prayer, opening a door, or bringing healing in an unexpected way? Did you recognize his grace in that moment, or was it only in hindsight that you saw his grace?
5. It's often a poor portrait of God (which doesn't look like Jesus) that can cause us not to receive and experience God's grace. And as Pastor David said, "You can't give what you haven't received yourself." Where in your life do you most need to be reminded that God is *gracious*—not disappointed, distant, or demanding?
6. Pastor David said, "[When] grace is given to us by God, our response to him does not come out of a social or religious obligation, instead, it springs up like a joyful child who has been given a gift from a loving parent." Read Romans 2:3-4. What might it look like to respond to God's kindness and grace with heart-felt repentance—not out of fear, but out of love, reverence, gratitude and trust?
7. LIFE ON MISSION QUESTION: Read 1 Peter 4:9-11. What opportunities might God be graciously giving you right now to participate in his redemptive work—in your family, church, or community? What are you doing to share and steward God's grace to others, and/or how is the Spirit inviting you to do that?