**Finding Your G.R.A.C.E. Place Bible Study**

**By Saundra Dalton-Smith**

[**www.setfreetolivefreebook.com**](http://www.setfreetolivefreebook.com)

**Study Guidelines:** **1.** Read the daily devotional. **2**. Meditate on the scripture focus. **3.** Set aside at least 5-10 minutes to allow God to speak to you. **4.** Answer the discussion questions. **5.** Pray.

**Day 1**

**Scripture Focus:** ““My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV

**Why G.R.A.C.E.?**

Welcome to Day 1 of G.R.A.C.E. bible study!

If you are like me, when you look back over the errors, failures and mishaps in your life you may wonder why a Holy God would ever love you. How can he forgive and forget all the things you’ve done in the past? How could you ever amend your past mistakes and wrong choices? Can the blood of Jesus remove the stains of past drug addition, sexual promiscuity, or abortion? What event from your past still tries to cling to your present and holding you back from your future? It’s impossible for you to go back and redeem your past, but God can. Nothing is impossible with God. (Luke 1:37)

God is in no way confined to our limitations of time. Your past pains, disappointments, weaknesses and shortcoming are the perfect ground for God to dig deep, plant the seed of his promises and reap a harvest for His Kingdom. Over the next 5 weeks it is my prayer that God reveals to you the area of your life he wants to extend his G.R.A.C.E.

**G** –God’s

**R** -Resurrecting power

**A**-Actively

**C**-Changing and

**E**-Empowering your life

His grace is sufficient to overcome every area of your past that tries to keep you spiritually bound. Learning to live within the security of that grace requires an understanding of its potential. G.R.A.C.E. has the potential to change every aspect of your life. God wants to infuse his resurrecting, life-giving, overcoming power into your spiritual walk, your marriage, your health, your career, your family and any other part of your life that is important to you. There is not one area in your life that does not matter to him. You are His beloved bride and his desire is to take care of all of your needs. (Phil 4:19)

Over the next 5 days we will be discussing the 5 components of G.R.A.C.E. We will use God’s word to find answers and examples of how these words define the grace of God that has been extended to us. Each day’s bible study will start with a scripture focus for you to memorize and hide in your heart for those times when your past tries to resurface. Each study will conclude with a closing prayer and discussion questions. Now let’s get ready to find our G.R.A.C.E. place!

**Knowing God**

Knowing God and having a personal relationship with Jesus is the most important step and the first part of G.R.A.C.E. Without the knowledge of God’s characteristics, attributes and promises we often fall back into our own beliefs about God causing us to spiritually perish. (Hosea 4:6) Throughout the bible God reveals himself to us through his various names. The names of God within the Bible are not merely for identification purposes but give us insight into who he is. They reveal his personality, his intentions and his thoughts toward us. Each name is a personal promise from God declaring who He is and what he is capable of doing within your life. This week allow God to reveal a different side of himself to you through the promises in his names. Choose 3 names that you will use to begin building the foundation of your trust in God upon. Look up the scriptures associated with that name and expect to see God manifest that part of himself within your life this week.

**Names of God**

ELOHIM –God of all power and might (Genesis 1:1, Psalm 19:1)

El Elyon –The God most high (Genesis 14:17-20,Isaiah 14:13-14)

ADONAI– Lord of all/My master (Malachi 1:6)

JEHOVAH--YAHWEH – God of my Salvation (Genesis 2:4)

JEHOVAH-ROHI– The Lord my Shepherd (Psalm 23:1)

JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH – The Lord who is present/ My companion (Ezekiel 48:35)

JEHOVAH-RAPHA – The Lord my healer (Exodus 15:26)

JEHOVAH–MACCADDESHEM – The Lord who sanctifies (Exodus 31:13)

EL-SHADDAI - The God of the mountains or God Almighty (Genesis 17:1,Psalm 91:1)

EL-OLAM – The everlasting God (Isaiah 40:28-31)

JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU -The Lord our righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6)

JEHOVAH-JIREH - The Lord will provide (Genesis 22:13-14)

JEHOVAH-NISSI - The Lord our banner (Exodus 17:15)

JEHOVAH-SHALOM – The Lord my peace (Judges 6:24)

JEHOVAH -SABBAOTH– The Lord of hosts (Isaiah 6:1-3)

EL-ROI - The strong one who sees (Genesis 16:13)

ANCIENT OF DAYS -Daniel 7:9

EVERLASTING FATHER - Isaiah 9:6

I AM - Exodus 3:14

“The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.” Proverbs 18:10

**Closing Prayer**

Thank you God for being all that I need. You are sufficient. Help me to be able to see you working within my weaknesses. Help me to be sensitive to your presence and your spirit. Reveal yourself to me this week in a new way. Fill every place that has become dry and soften the hardened places of my heart. Draw me to the G.R.A.C.E place you have prepared for me. In Jesus name, Amen.

**Discussion Questions**

**1:** When was the first time you recall God extending his grace to you? What areas in your life today do you need God’s G.R.A.C.E. to overcome?

**2:** In this week’s study we learned many of the names of God, but God also reveals himself to us though the names of Jesus. What names of Jesus have you found comfort in? How do the names of Jesus apply to our daily lives? Let’s see how many names we can find in the scripture about our Savior!

**3:** Knowing God sounds so religious but it has nothing to do with religion and everything to do with relationship. Relationships are built around time spent sharing together, mutual adoration and a desire to be transparent. What is one thing you can do today to help build your relationship with the lover of your soul?

**4:** It is easier to believe that God wants to heal, deliver, bless or set free the woman you sit beside in a church but what about you? Has past disappointments or weaknesses made you question your position in line for God’s blessings? Do you believe that God wants to bless you beyond what you can ask or think? Is there anything that is too difficult for our God?

**5:** Choose three of the names of God that you will use to begin building the foundation of your trust in God upon. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you. –Psalms 9:10

**Day 2**

**Scripture Focus:** He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. –Psalms 91:1

**In Pursuit of the Secret Place**

What is your reaction when life does not work out the way you planned? The job you’ve had for 20 years suddenly decides to downsize. The husband you thought you would be living out your retirement years with asks for a divorce. Your only child is serious injured in an accident leaving them paralyzed for life. Where do you turn when life is interrupted with an unexpected disappointment?

There are times in life when it feels as if you may be dying on the inside, emotionally and spiritually dying. Numb and immobile from an event so unplanned that you cannot coordinate a mental reaction, only to later find yourself crying uncontrollably. Crying out like David, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from helping Me?” Psalm 22:1

It is during those times that you are being called by God to come away with him. Every life event has a divine purpose. Good or bad, each can either bring you closer to God or pull you further away. Since you are participating in this bible study, it is my belief that your desire is to always be moving closer to God even when you are facing disappointment. You are in pursuit of the Secret Place.

**What is the Secret Place of God?**

First of all it is a secret. It is not openly disclosed to everyone. Every believer in Christ will not find the Secret Place, only those who search it out. It is available to all, but each much take the journey to find it. There may be some difficult territory that has to be overcome to get there. There can be some hills that must be climbed and some valleys to travel through on your journey. It is mandatory that you travel light. The passages are narrow with only enough room for the bare necessities. There is no room for bitterness, anger, greed, pride, unforgiveness, disobedience, rebellion, or impure motives. The only needed commodity is a yielded heart.

The secret place is a holy place close to God. It is the place where His presence becomes as real to you as the person sitting beside you in Sunday school. It is a place of intimacy, trust, love, and continuous fellowship with the Lord of all creation. It is a place He expects you to not only find, but to ultimately dwell. He wants you to get so comfortable in this place that you eventually see it as your home, the place where you belong.

**What are the Benefits of the Secret Place?**

**1. You are shielded from evil.**

You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues. –Psalms 31:20 NKJV

**2. You are hidden in Christ.**

For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. Psalms 27:5

**3. You are delivered.**

You called in trouble, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah. Psalms 81:7

**4. There are hidden treasures.**

I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the LORD, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel. Isaiah 45:3

**5. You are rewarded.**

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Matthew 6:6

**What is a G.R.A.C.E. Place**

The journey can be difficult on the way to the secret place but God has been so gracious as to give us a rest stop along the way. This is what I call a G.R.A.C.E. place.

**G:** God’s

**R:** Resurrecting power

**A:** Actively

**C:** Changing and

**E:** Empowering your life

This is the place where you are strengthened and empowered for the journey. It is the place where assistance comes along beside you to help relieve you of unnecessary baggage. This is the place where your tears of disappointment are used to soften the hardened ground of your heart. This is the place where your faith is built up and fears are torn down. This is the place where you receive power from on high. This is the place where the fruits of the spirit are nurtured. This is the place where you fall in love with Jesus. This is the place where you a wooed back into the arms of a risen Savior. This is a place of resurrection power.

**Resurrection Power**

By definition resurrection is the act of rising from the dead or the returning of life. So in order to have God’s resurrection power at work within your life something has to die. Sometimes it’s your plans that have to die. Sometimes it’s your dreams, but regardless of what dies take comfort in the knowledge that God specializes in resurrections. There is not one dead dry place in your life that He does not have the ability to speak life back into. Joy can be resurrected, peace can be resurrected, hope can be resurrected, and faith can be resurrected.

God’s resurrection power has the ability to change your life. It is strong enough to redeem our past. It is powerful enough to conquer life’s problems. It is potent enough to change our behavior. It is effective and competent in its ability to renew our minds. It is the same power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at the right hand of the God. (Eph 1:20) That same power is available to you. When you’ve got God’s resurrection power actively working within your life, you can rest in the assurance that all things work together for good. (Rom 8:28) No matter how dark a situation may be God can turn it around. He can cause you to rise up out of that problem the same way He causes Christ to arise from the grave. It’s time to arise, shake off those graves clothes of the past, fold them up, and put them away. There is a newness of life to be explored as He leads you through your G.R.A.C.E. place to the secret place. He is calling you to come away, so what will your answer be?

Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away! “O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the secret places of the cliff, Let me see your face, Let me hear your voice; For your voice is sweet, And your face is lovely.” –Song of Solomon 2:13-14

**Closing Prayer**

I need you Lord. I need your help to find my way. I want to let go of everything that would impede my journey. I surrender all into your capable hands. I lift up my life, my dreams, and my expectations as my offering to you today. Lord I hold nothing back from your touch. My hearts cry is that I may know Christ and the power of His resurrection active in every area of my life. In Jesus name, Amen.

**Discussion Questions**

**1:** Has there ever been a time in your life when it seemed as if God had forsaken you? How can disappointments and difficult time be used by God to draw us to Him?

**2:** Today we learned about the Secret Place of God. Why is the Secret Place a desirable place to be? Why do you feel God has prepared the Secret Place? How would dwelling in the Secret Place benefit your day to day life?

**3:** Is there any baggage that is holding you back from being able to move freely into the Secret Place? How can finding your G.R.A.C.E. place help you overcome that area?

**4:** Are there any areas of your life that seem to have died? Do you believe that God’s resurrecting power is able to breathe life back into that area? Stir up your faith today to expect a resurrection in that area.

**5:** Do you ever have trouble letting go of areas of your life? Which areas do you find the hardest to let go? Do you trust God or have disappointment cause you to lose trust in Him?

**Day 3**

**Scripture Focus:** No one has seen a God besides You, Who works and shows Himself active on behalf of him who [earnestly] waits for Him. Isaiah 63:4 AMP

**Amazing G.R.A.C.E.**

Often when we are in the middle of a challenge, it is difficult to see God at work within the situation. If you pray for a job only to find out you did not get it, you may become discouraged at the time. But a few weeks later, when you secure another position with better benefits you can see how God was active on your behalf. During the time between the initial “Not Now” and God’s best, there is a wilderness place. This is the place where your faith is strengthened and proven. This is the place where you must draw an imaginary line in the sand and declare “As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15) Despite what it looks like today, inside is a confident assurance that God is working things out in your favor.

It is during this time that God’s resurrecting power comes along to breathe life back into the wounded dead places of our lives. By His G.R.A.C.E., you are able to see a new path coming up out of the darkness. His light shines down to illuminate what you could not see before. The reality of all the assets He has equipped you with becomes more evident and your weaknesses become reservoirs for His glory. It’s His amazing G.R.A.C.E. and it’s active and available to you.

**G.** God’s

**R.** Resurrecting Power

**A.** Actively

**C.** Changing and

**E.** Empowering your life

**Is God Still Active?**

All around us daily is evidence of God’s activity. Everything in nature declares of His existence and power. But can you see God’s activity within your personal situations? Is God active in your life? He desires to be an active part of your life, but sometimes our lives can become too busy for God. Work, family, and even church obligations can become a substitute for time spent building our relationship with God. There are many ways that God can moves within our lives, but the ways that bring the most contentment and peace require our active participation. Although God can work in our lives through changing our circumstances, His desire is to actively change us inwardly. Even right now as you are reading this study, God is drawing near to get His active Word deposited into your heart. For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Heb 4:12 NIV

**5 Ways God is Actively Working in Your Life**

**1. God is actively guiding your steps.**

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths" -Proverbs 3:5,6 (NIV) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalms 119:105 (NKJV)

**2. God is actively correcting you.**

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle" -Psalm 32:8,9

**3. God is actively comforting you.**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. -2 Cor 1:3-4

**4. God is actively refreshing you.**

Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” -John 4:13-14 (NKJV)

**5. God is actively preparing you for victory.**

You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. -Genesis 50:20

These five ways were best summed up by David in Psalms 23. God desire is to become so close that your every move is directed by Him. His presence becomes your security in times of pain or disappointment. He becomes your comfort. His abundance becomes the source from which your needs are met. You lack for nothing because you dwell in His house. His plan is a good plan and one that you can enjoy the benefits of if you follow His leading.

**Psalm 23**

 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

**Active Participation**

If you are like me, by now you are shouting “Sign me up!” This is the life plan we all desire. One that leads us to God’s best. His individualized directions on your life laid out for you to follow. This is where your active participation is vital, yet this is often the hardest part. To actively participate you must learn how to be still, and spend some time alone with God. Being still does not mean, doing nothing. In fact it can be the most important thing you do before a major life decision. Even Jesus found time to get alone, pray and seek God before his journey to the cross. Silence and solitude have become replaced with multi-tasking and misdirected activity. God dwells in the Secret Place, a place of separation from others. To spend time with Him intimately, you need to go where He dwells.

Being still allows the channels of communication to be opened and your sensitivity to be heightened, so that you can hear His still small voice. Sometimes it may manifest as a sense of peace about a situation you were questioning. Other times being still may lead to an idea or a solution to a problem with which you were struggling. Despite how He chooses to reveal Himself to you, the time spent together is always a time of activity as he moves you in the right direction. Spend this week actively pursuing Him while He actively pursues you.

“Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends” (New Living Translation). - Revelation 3:20

**Closing Prayer:**

Lord, thank you for your goodness and mercy in my life. I know that your plans for me are good. I need your guidance more than ever to direct my steps. Speak an active Word into my life. As I actively pursue you in stillness and solitude this week, open the door of my understanding. Align my desires and will with Your plan. Share your heart with me. In Jesus name, Amen.

**Discussion Questions**

**1:** Can you recall a time when it initially appeared as if God had answered your prayer with a “No” only to realize later it was really a “Not now, just wait for my best.”?

**2:** In what ways is God actively working within your life? Can you see God moving within your personal situation? Has He been changing it, changing you, or both? God is always active, even when it looks like nothing is changing.

**3:** Spend today meditating on Psalm 23. What part of this Psalm is most relevant to your current situation? Set aside at least 5 minutes to sit in silence after reading it and allow God to expand your expectations of His activity within your life.

**4:** How have you been actively participating with God this week? Do you find being still difficult? How can finding more time for solitude improve your relationship with God?

**5:** What are some ways that God has revealed himself to you this week? How is He sharing his heart with you?

**Day 4**

**Scripture Focus:** Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. Jeremiah 18:3-4

**In the Potter’s Hands**

Clay is not easy to work with. The other day my son came home from school with something white and sticky all over his clothes. I asked him what this was and he replied, “Sorry mom, my clay was too wet.” His class was attempting to make special cups as a surprise for Mother’s day but someone has put too much water in the clay mixture. Instead of a firm sturdy pliable clay that could he molded, what they had to work with was a sticky gooey weak mixture that refused to conform to the desired shapes. Before clay can be put upon the wheel, it has to be properly prepared. It has to be supple enough to adapt to change, yet secure enough to not collapse under pressure. Just like clay, before God can begin remaking and changing you there are some preparations that have to occur. Over the past few weeks we have discussed who God is, the resurrecting power He’s made available to you, and His active participation within your life; now we will discuss how God is able to change and mold us into new creatures in Christ.

God, the Master Potter, is always at work. He has the knowledge, skill, and ability to make any vessel He envisions; but like all potters the clay has to be made ready. In Jeremiah 18, while working with this particular piece of clay something happened. The clay did not respond as the potter desired and had a flaw. This was not due to the lack of skill of the potter, but rather to a defect with the clay. Now the clay could still have been made into something without starting over, but the potter had a specific use in mind when he started. He did not set out on a whim to make just anything, but rather the one thing that met his purpose. He is patient and is willing to take the time to rework the clay over and over again if needed for it to become what he intended. God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness (Psalm 86: 15). Through His G.R.A.C.E. all things can be made new (Rev 21:5).

**G.** God’s

**R.** Resurrection Power

**A.** Actively

**C.** Changing and

**E.** Empowering your life

**Changing into a New Vessel**

In today’s scripture focus, God sends Jeremiah down to the potter’s house to reveal more of Himself in a very tangible way. God still uses life as a classroom to guiding us into His truths. Every event, hardship, failure, sin, and success is a part of our personalized lesson plan. Learning the lesson will require being able to see the situation through God’s eyes. His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts (Isaiah 58:8). Seeing life through a heavenly lens puts it in a new perspective. Spending time in silence and stillness can open the door to God revealing to you what type of vessel He wants to make you into. Once you get a glimpse of God’s vision for your life, you have to then be willing to go through His process for change. No vessel is so flawed that it cannot be changed. Each can be re-worked into a useful vessel in the hands of the Potter.

**The 5 Stages of Godly Change**

1. **Broken**

Brokenness is a prerequisite for a life change. It is a state of complete yielding to doing things God’s way. You no longer desire for there to be any distance between you and God. You can feel the disconnection that comes from unconfessed sin in your life. Your desire is to turn away from whatever has marred you. You want nothing more than to be restored. I love how the scripture states it “Marred in the hand of the potter.” Even when you mess up the worst you can imagine, He still has not left you alone. Your life and destiny were always in the palm of His hands.

1. **Crushed**

Ironically, the journey to being remade restored and renewed starts with being crushed. The NLT states “But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he crushed it into a lump of clay again and started over.” Isaiah 53:5 says “He was crushed for our sins” (NLT). Jesus shows us that being crushed is not a sign of defeat, but a part of God’s plan for redemption. Accept God’s invitation to take all past sins to the cross, nail them there and leave them, and then allow him to place you on the potter’s wheel.

1. **Molded**

Once reduced to the point of wanting nothing more than the Potter’s touch, you are ready to be molded. You have come to the end of yourself and what you feel you can do to change your situation. You now know that only His touch can mend the broken and crushed places in your life. “Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”(Isaiah 64:8) He knows the right amount of pressure to apply to your life and when to loosen His grasp, as He molds you into a useable vessel.

1. **Refined**

Once your new characteristics begin to take form you are moved into a season of intense heat. God’s loving fire comes to strengthen you leading to permanent change. This fire may not feel loving during the process, but as impurities are pushed out you are drawn closer and closer to God. ”If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John1:9) It is during this stage that God adorns you with the glaze of His glory and you become a living reflection of Christ.

1. **Filled**

Once taken off the potter’s wheel, you are still never alone. Rather than simply sending you off to fulfill your purpose, the Potter deposits a part of Himself inside of you. “Be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:18) He fills you with Living Water so that you may pour out His love and truth into the lives of others. It is not something that you can do on your own, but is a gift from the potter. It is a sign that He is ready for you to be put into service. It does not suggest that you have reached perfection, but rather that you are now useable for the purpose for which he created you. He has never been interested in perfect vessels only usable vessels. Do not be afraid of failure. If you become marred He can make you over again.

**Closing Prayer**

Thank you Lord for your loving kindness towards me. Today I bring all of my broken pieces and I give them to you. Mold me into a useable vessel. Help me to yield those parts of my life that I try to shield from your refining fire. Purify me from all unrighteousness. I give you free reign to make me into the vessel you desire. In Jesus name, Amen.

**Discussion Questions**

**1:** What type of vessel do you see yourself as right now? What descriptive terms would you use to describe your current vessel? Be real with yourself and God.

**2:** Are there any areas of your life where you are resisting the hand of the Potter? How does holding back these areas limit the ability of the Potter to mold and shape you?

**3:** The refining process often one of the most difficult. The heat is turned up and our faith is tested. Why is this process necessary for your spiritual growth? What are ways you can turn your time of refining into a time for praise and worship to the One who is in the fire with you?

**Day 5**

**Scripture Focus:** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. – John 10:10

**A God-Sized Vision**

What has God been speaking into your heart over these past weeks? Has He given you a vision for your future that seems unobtainable? Has He implanted a desire in your heart for which you do not feel you have the ability to complete? Has God impregnated you with His plan and purpose for your life? Do you have a God-sized vision?

A God-sized vision is one that seems completely impossible and would be impossible without God’s enabling power. If all your plans include things you can make happen within you own strength, then it is not a God-size vision. For each person that vision will look different. A God-size vision for one may be reconciliation with family members that refuses to talk to them, the salvation of their entire household or restoration of their marriage. A God-size vision for another may be a national Christian speaking platform or full-time ministry. These are drastically different visions but each important and equally in need of God’s power for it to happen. As one vision is brought to completion, God will enlarge your capacity to believe and give you your next vision. It is my prayer that each of us receives God-sized visions for our life.

I waited for the LORD's answer, before explaining the reason for my complaint. Then the LORD told me: "I will give you my message in the form of a vision. Write it clearly enough to be read at a glance. At the time I have decided, my words will come true. You can trust what I say about the future. –Habakkuk 2 (Message)

**Why Does God Give God-Sized Vision?**

The only type of vision God can give you is a God-sized vision. He vision is void of the self-imposed limits we place on what He can do in our life. He sees your life the way it was meant to be lived. Once you get God’s vision for your life, it ignites a hunger inside of you. You begin to crave what your spirit desires but you have personally yet experienced. That hunger can lead to intense frustration when you are not automatically able to make the vision your reality. God does not give us God-sized visions as a means to torment us, but as a reminder to return to Him. It is one of the ways He draws us back to our G.R.A.C.E. place. Knowing scripture is wonderful but it is not enough. God-sized visions require you to not only know the Word of God, but also be able to apply it to your life. It teaches you how to walk in the power of what you know to be true. It requires you to look past your situation and to look to God for guidance (Psalm 32:8). It forces you to stand on your belief that He who placed the vision within you is also faithful to do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

**Empowered by God**

At times life can be hard (John 16:33). Things don’t go as planned. Sometimes the manifestation of your God-sized vision will be delayed and you will have to wait on it (Habakkuk 2:3). God never promised us that we would live problem-free lives, but He does promise an abundant life (John 10:10). The abundant life is not merely focusing on finances and material possessions, but your capacity to draw from God’s endless supply of G.R.A.C.E. Once you realize that your God-sized vision is bigger than you, it’s time to seek Him. Tapping into His inexhaustible G.R.A.C.E. opens the door to peace, joy, love, contentment, creativity and success in your endeavors.

**G.** God’s

**R.** Resurrection Power

**A.** Actively

**C.** Changing and

**E.** Empowering your life

**Imprisoned or Empowered?**

How do you respond when you do what you thought was right and it does not work out? You tried to follow what you believed to be God’s plan but it all ends up in a mess. You know you have a God-size vision but while trying to live it out doors keep slamming in your face. Your past keeps arising to kill your hope. Old feeling of failure try to steal your vision and feelings of defeat try to destroy any progress. How can you overcome the imprisonment of hope deferred? You overcome it by finding your G.R.A.C.E. place.

God did not leave us without an example of how to find our G.R.A.C.E. place in the middle of despair. In Acts 16, Paul and Silas found themselves in a difficult situation. They had been doing the work of the Lord, sharing the Good News with everyone. Despite doing what they were called to do, they came up against opposition. The attack against them was so great that it resulted in them being imprisoned. As the doors to the prison cell slammed in their face, it looked as if all hope was lost. But at the midnight hour, the hour of revelation, they remembered that there is a G.R.A.C.E. place. They remembered that the name of the Lord is to be praised. They offered up their dying hope to the resurrecting power of Christ. They actively pursued the Secret Place through worship and God showed up to change their circumstances. They were set free to live free, empowered by the God of all power. Not only did finding their G.R.A.C.E. place free them, but those around them got loosed too!

Acts 16:25-26 - Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!

**Your G.R.A.C.E. Place**

It’s God’s desire to get glory out of your life. Despite past mistakes, despite what others think, despite your own fears and insecurities. When you feel overwhelmed and confused about how to proceed, go to your G.R.A.C.E. place. Allow Him to remind you of who He is and all His name implies. Sit in His presence as He breathes life back into the dying places of your heart. Actively pursue Him and watch as He opens the door of your understanding. Allow Him access to change and renew your mind. Feel the chains of oppression fall off. Then receive His enabling power and strength to proceed in your journey to freely pursue His purpose for your life. He who the Son sets free is free indeed. (John 8:36)

**Closing Prayer**

Thank you for the freedom I have found in Christ. Thank you, Lord, for enlarging my vision for my life. May my God-size vision daily remind me to run to my G.R.A.C.E. place. Fill me with your Spirit. Equip me with the knowledge of your Holy Word. Empower me by your inexhaustible grace. May my life bring You glory and praise. In Jesus Name, Amen.

**Discussion Questions**

**1:** What has God been speaking into your heart over these past 5 weeks? Do you have a God-sized vision for your life? Spend today writing out the details of that vision in your journal.

**2:** Why do you believe God gives us God-sized visions? Is your God-sized vision a blessing or a stumbling block in your relationship with God? Do you believe it can draw you closer to God if you let it?

**3:** How do you view difficult times in your life? Have your problems left you feeling imprisoned or empowered?

**4:** How can praise be used as a weapon against your circumstances? Have you ever experienced the power of praise? Spend a few moments today in praise/worship, and feel the chains of depression/oppression/anxiety/fear fall off in His presence.

**5:** How can finding your G.R.A.C.E. place help you live an abundant life in Christ? What will be your personal strategy for finding your G.R.A.C.E. place in times of need?

**\*\*\***

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of your journey to Finding Your G.R.A.C.E. Place. It is my prayer that this bible study has encouraged you to continually seek after the One who first sought you. It is in that pursuit that you will find the enabling power you need to abundantly live your life to the fullest. Visit me at [www.setfreetolivefreebook.com](http://www.setfreetolivefreebook.com) for a sample chapter of my non-fiction book Set Free to Live Free: Breaking Through the 7 Lies Women Tell Themselves.

Blessings to you all,

Saundra Dalton-Smith M.D.

**Bio:** Saundra Dalton-Smith is an Internal Medicine physician and the author of Set Free to Live Free: Breaking Through the 7 Lies Women Tell Themselves (Revell 2011). She is passionate about helping women overcome mental obstacles to live free in Christ. She is married with two sons and lives in Alabama.