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# **SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE**

NORTH: Sept. 27/Oct. 1 | SOUTH: Oct. 4/8 | CHAPEL: Oct. 15



## **GRACE ALONE**

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This study guide was written by the Pastors at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Find this resource and others at [FARGOHOPE.ORG/RESOURCES](https://fargo-hope.org/resources)

# ***GRACE ALONE***

**READ:** Romans 3:20-24; Ephesians 2:8-9

A phone call to a lonely person is an act of grace. The caller simply knew the state of the lonely person and decided to change their loneliness. The caller decided to make a difference in the lonely person's condition when he picked up the phone and began a conversation. The lonely person did nothing to earn or deserve the delightful phone call; they simply received the phone call and were no longer lonely. That simple act of grace changed everything.

You and I have a condition not unlike loneliness, but in many ways, far worse. The condition is called sin. We have a broken relationship with God, people and all of creation. We experience this brokenness in arguments with the people closest to us. We experience this when other people hurt us. We experience this state of sin when we hurt other people. We experience sin when we feel that God is absent, or convicting us of our wrongs. We experience the state of sin when we live in fear and worry.

Grace is God meeting us in our sin. He offers a gift. That gift is God in Jesus Christ. Jesus died for you and me to take away our sins. And he died to restore you and me to a life-giving relationship with God. Jesus joined us in sin and death so that we can join him in everlasting life. God poured out his grace upon us, to change us and make us new. And this alone makes you and me forgiven people of God, marked with an eternal destiny.

## ***QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION***

1. When have you experienced the effects of sin?
2. How have you experienced God's grace in your life?

3. How have you received grace from another person?
4. Describe how you have given grace to others.
5. What qualities of a grace-filled person can you incorporate into your life?
6. Are there ways they act that you, too, can put into practice?
7. A simple way to remember what grace means: **God's Riches At Christ's Expense.**

## ***PRAYER***

Father in heaven, thank you for your unmeasurable grace that you have poured out on me. Thank you for loving me when I was unlovable. Thank you for saving me when I could not save myself. Thank you for the great sacrifice you gave so that I might be forgiven and made new. Help me see other people as you see them. Help me pour out your grace into the world. Amen.