Reflect

1. In what ways do you think God expects you to respond to His grace freely given to you?
2. Why do you think God wants you to be generous and show acts of service to others? What does it do for you?
3. Discuss. Faith turned inward with no care or concern for others becomes an expression self-righteousness. What do you think Jesus would say about self-righteous people?
4. What is the greatest challenge you face in responding to God’s grace?
5. How have you been blessed by God to be a blessing to others?

Read Your Bible

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- James 2:14-26

Apply God’s Word to Your Life

1. What does this verse mean to you: “Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will reap generously”?
2. Why do you think God loves a cheerful giver?
3. How is your giving and service to others an expression of your love and thanks to God?
4. See 2 Corinthians, verse 13. Discuss how generosity or service to others is a way to point others to God?
5. See James 2:17. In your view why is faith without works a dead faith?
6. See James 2:24. Discuss how righteousness and faith are linked by what we do in response to God’s grace.
7. As you wrestle with God today what is He asking you to do in response to His grace?

Faith turned inward is a dangerous thing for you and me. It leads towards self-righteousness, not towards a righteousness born of thanksgiving to God for what He is doing in your life. And that faith as the scripture says has no life. It is dead. Faith that is active and dynamic is responsive to the first commandment, “To love God and others” that flows from our lives with acts of love and service toward others, joining with God in His work in this world. A living and active faith is looking for opportunities to make a difference in whatever ways we can through acts of generosity and service. God honors those responses to His grace and counts them as acts of righteousness. More than that we make God smile when we live out who we are called to be as sons and daughters of God with acts of generosity, love and service.

Pray

Lord God Your grace is everything to me. It is the reason I have life with You today and a hope for life with You in heaven. I want to respond to Your grace. Take my life and let it be an offering to You through the acts of service, sacrifice and generosity that I give as an expression of my love for You. I can never repay You for Your grace, O Lord, but I can reflect who You are with my deeds. Use me Lord. In Jesus’ name. Amen.