



Sermon-based reflections connect the week to the weekend!

Dig deeper into the talk each week, in a small group or independently. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life.

Message Info: A New Year Message - Come Dine, 12/31/23 - There are spaces in life that breath anticipation. Schools in September and hospital maternity wings. Sometimes we bring a lot into those spaces. The sense of unknown causes us to overcompensate, and actually hinders progress. In the hustle, we miss the still, small voice inviting us to pause. More important than the mysteries the future holds, is how we prepare for them. (Passages: John 21:10-14)

Discussion Questions: Take your time and dig into these questions.

What are you evaluating going into the new year? Are you planning improvements to any areas of your life? Pondering what could be better? What burdens impede your progress? Unforgiveness, sin, expectations? What can you be grateful for from last year?

Read John 21:10-14. What stands out to you about this passage? Why?

Despite Jesus' order to bring *some* of the fish ashore, Peter brought them *all*. Way more than they needed. Sometimes we do that too. At times we think we need to prove our worth, or maybe we're carrying some emotional burden, when we should be looking to God. What takes up most of your focus and energy? Are you trusting God with it? What's blocking you from feeling gratitude for the blessings in your life? How does meditating on our blessings impact our outlook?

We don't need to bring anything to the table; we simply have to accept his invitation. Sit, and dine with Jesus. Designate a space to listen for his voice and spend time with him. This is a simple, beautiful opportunity to enjoy real friendship with Jesus. Let's learn to linger there. When and where can you schedule quiet time with Jesus? How will incorporating this time into our routine impact the difficult times we face?

Jesus had grace for Peter. We need to remember he has it for us too, and we need to demonstrate it towards others. That perspective alone counteracts stress. Practice being grateful for unbroken nets; for the "little things" and even when it's hard. Make a list of blessings to revisit often. The physical reminder will aid in keeping our hearts focused on the right things so we can trust him with the rest.

Weekly Challenge: Find a Grace Team to serve on once a month! Email info@gracefreechurch.net to get started.