

UNSHAKEABLE BEDROCK

BROAD OVERVIEW

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY

- Sunday afternoon, begin spiritually preparing by prayerfully working through *Unshakeable* throughout the week; prepare to teach using the *Teacher Preparation Guide*.
- Prepare and collect any resources you will use Sunday morning.

SUNDAY MORNING | READY THE ROOM

- Be sure your class leadership team is ready to receive members and guests by at least 9:50am.
- Use nametags for members and guests and ensure everyone gets a copy of the *Unshakeable Personal Journal*.
- Prominently display the learning goal before anyone arrives.

THE GROUPLIFE HOUR

1. **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** (< 5 MINUTES)
2. **DAILY READING HIGHLIGHTS & PRAYER** (10-15 MINUTES)
3. **READY THE LEARNERS** (<10 MINUTES)
4. **TEACH & APPLY THE LESSON** (25-30 MINUTES)
5. **GUIDE MEMBERS TO RESPOND** (5 MINUTES)
6. **FINAL REMINDERS & DISMISS CLASS** (3 MINUTES)

PREPARING FOR NEXT SUNDAY

- See the attached *Teacher Preparation Guide*.

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY

1. PREPARE SPIRITUALLY & PREPARE TO TEACH:

- Begin working through the *Teacher Preparation Guide* starting Sunday afternoon or very early in the week. You can find it on the last page of this document. You can also access this (and other) teacher resources at fcbryan.org/unshakeable.
- Prepare yourself spiritually by prayerfully working through the *Unshakeable* Daily Readings throughout the week.
- Teachers are always free to narrow the scope of the lesson by zeroing in on a single truth in the chapter they prayerfully believe best meets the needs of the class. Dig into the scriptures around that truth in *Unshakeable*, or supplement it with other passages the Lord draws you to in your preparation.

2. PREPARE RESOURCES:

- Ready a cleaned white board with white board markers or a large presentation sheet with permanent markers.
- Make a plan for displaying the learning goal on white board, presentation sheet, powerpoint slide, or handout.
- Have a method nailed down for collecting class prayer requests and distributing them to the class later that day.
- Gather enough post-it notes and pens, or prepare an online poll, if choosing Option 1 of the learning readiness activity.
- Place a post-it note on the wall by itself. Make sure it is 5'7" off the ground. You will refer to it later.

SUNDAY MORNING

READY THE ROOM

- Be sure your class leadership team is ready to receive members and guests by at least 9:50am. Though members are in the habit of showing up later, guests typically arrive early so as not to draw attention to themselves.
- Warm the environment of the room with music
- Prominently display the learning goal before anyone arrives:

GOD INVITES YOU TO MAKE GRACE THE BEDROCK UPON WHICH YOU BUILD THE REMAINDER OF YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE.

- Use nametags for members and guests. Be ready to gather information from class guests using Guest Information Cards or TouchPoint checkin.
- Ensure guests get a copy of the *Unshakeable Personal Journal* when they first arrive. This will give guests something to look at while waiting for members to arrive.
- Engage guests in warm conversation. Introduce them to others in the class and engage them in conversation if it appears welcome.

THE GROUPLIFE HOUR

1. **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS (< 5 MINUTES)**. There's a lot to cover. Select a few announcements that are most time sensitive or important. Leave the remaining announcements to class communications during the week.
2. **DAILY READING HIGHLIGHTS & PRAYER (10-15 MINUTES)**
 - a. **SHARE INSIGHTS**. Instruct your class: "Pair up with a few people around you. Browse through this week's reading in your *Personal Journal* looking for anything you may have underlined for highlighted.

Share something that stood out to you from the Daily Readings this week in your *Unshakeable Personal Journal*.”

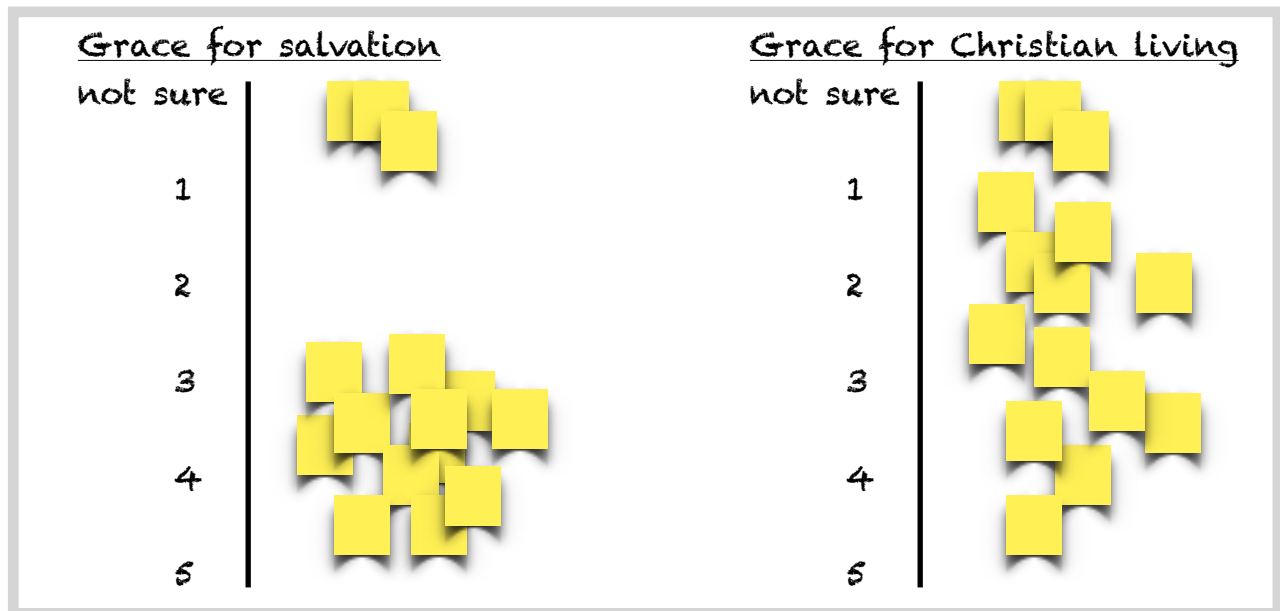
- b. **SHARE PRAYER REQUESTS.** Share how the group can be praying **for you**. In the interest of time, arrange for prayers **for others** to be collected and shared with the entire class through email.
- c. **REPORT INSIGHTS TO CLASS.** Ask someone from a few groups to share with the class something from the Daily Readings that was shared in their group.
- d. **UNSHAKEABLE REMINDERS:** Encourage the class that in addition to GroupLife, to read the Daily Readings and attend our Worship Service every week. Urge them to bring their *Personal Journal* with them each week. Encourage them to “just read today’s reading” if they fall behind, and leave any catchup work to Day 6, if desired. Encourage them to not get bogged down on being perfectly consistent; Satan will surely use that against them.

3. **READY THE LEARNERS (<10 MINUTES)**

Engage the class member’s HEART & MIND. Debate, illustrate, brainstorm, share a surprising/humorous/controversial quote or question, or tell a personal story you will use to begin your lesson. Something that activates the mind or heart readies the member for learning better than jumping into facts.

a. Option 1: Class poll.

- Question 1, on a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (completely) – **How much are you relying on God’s grace to go to heaven?** Also, make “I’m not sure” as the “zero” option.
- Question 2, on a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (completely) – **How much are you relying on God’s grace for the remainder of your Christian life?** Also, make “I’m not sure” as the “zero” option.
- Note: you can make this poll interactive in one of two ways, use sticky notes on a white board pre-marked with the questions, and the range of answers – have them place their sticky notes beside their answers, forming a distribution of answers. Your board may look like this:



- OR, if you are using a screen in your classroom, you can create a digital poll where they answer anonymously from their phones. (Be sure to test this technology before using on Sunday).
- **Say:** It may be hard to see on our informal poll because we are a small group that's pretty similar. But too often there is certainty about the role of grace in salvation, yet a lack of certainty about what grace has to do with the Christian life after someone receives Jesus as Savior.
- **Say:** Today, we're going to be looking at how essential grace is for the remainder of our Christian lives.

b. Option 2: Amazing Grace

John Newton penned Amazing Grace in 1179. Here are the first 4 (of 7) Verses that apply to our lives between now and our final breath (show on screen, whiteboard, or handout):

Verse 1

Amazing Grace how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Verse 3

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

Verse 4

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.

Ask: Let's see if we can identify some truths about grace mentioned in this song? Wait for responses. Write them on the whiteboard.

After a few minutes or a few answers, say, "this morning we're going to be looking at what's so amazing about grace (for Christians) between now and the day we meet Jesus face to face.

- c. **PRAY:** Pause to pray, leading your class to be open hearted and attentive to God's truth, how it applies to our lives, and how He wants us to respond. Ask for wisdom and understanding that doesn't puff us up with pride. Ask for correction where there is error or misunderstanding. Ask for what we learn today to compel us to more deeply love God and all people with whom we come in contact.

4. **TEACH & APPLY THE LESSON** (25-30 MINUTES)

Engage the class member's HEART, MIND, & HANDS. As you teach the facts of the lesson, you are teaching the mind, and answering the question, "What is true?". We must also teach the heart, answering the question, "How should I value this truth?". Finally, we must give attention to the hands, answering the question, "What must I do with this truth that I now value?"

- a. **Review:** Last week we talked about the importance God's kingdom. No one is automatically a part of God's kingdom. Everyone is outside of the walls of His kingdom. But God wants to rescue us from the kingdom of darkness and have us enter the kingdom of Jesus. We enter His kingdom by receiving His grace. Then God's kingdom agenda begins—for God to extend the rule and reign of Jesus in us and through us.
- b. Today, we're going to look at grace from inside the walls of the kingdom. **Ask**, "Is grace just the doorway into the kingdom, or is it a paradigm for life in the kingdom?" Discuss.
- c. Grace is an open-door policy into a relationship of unbroken intimacy with God. **Ask**, "What are the 2 grace counterfeits mentioned in Week 2? [insert a brief personal story about a counterfeit food/currency/item that you experienced and identified because you knew the real thing.]"
- d. Definition of grace from the *Personal Journal*, page 39: **Grace is God ever-welcoming us into fellowship with Himself as an undeserved gift.** Let's break down that definition by discussing some of its key words.

1) "Ever-welcoming us"

Welcoming? sure. But ever or always welcoming? God is unchanging (Psalm 102:27, Malachi 3:6, James 1:17, Hebrews 1:12). Few, if any, would argue that the holiness of God is subject to change. He always has been and always will be holy. But what about God's graciousness? Has God always been gracious and will He always be gracious? Or using the terminology in the definition of grace, does God always welcome sinners into fellowship with Himself through repentance?

- (a) **Grace toward the lost:** Whether or not God's holiness demands righteous judgment toward sinners, His invitation into a restored relationship with Himself through grace remains intact. Review the key scriptures from the *Personal Journal*, page 53, as it explains God's ever-welcoming demeanor toward the lost: "...God describes His heart toward (i.e. how He feels about) sinners. Throughout the Old Testament and the New, God described, and ultimately

demonstrated on the cross, His love even “while we were still sinners” (Romans 5:8). He so loved the world of sinners that He sent His Son on a rescue mission to save them (John 3:16). The same mercy and grace now available to those in Christ has always been the predisposition of His heart toward all. The first recorded occasion of God revealing His heart toward humanity is recorded in the story of Moses getting a glimpse of His glory as He passed by in Exodus 33-34. There, God proclaimed this about Himself, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness...forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but will by no means clear the guilty (Exodus 34:6-7a, ESV). Like a good Father, He is slow to anger and reluctant to punish the guilty, but is quick and eager to love, even at the greatest cost to Himself. To be sure, His anger can be stirred up by sinners, but God never has to be provoked into loving them. The pleasure of His heart was and is always to choose, save, and adopt sinners (Ephesians 1:6). He “is not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). Centuries before the cross, Ezekiel records God saying it this way, “...‘As I live!’ declares the Lord God, ‘I take no pleasure at all in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live’” (Ezekiel 33:11).

- (b) **Grace toward His adopted sons and daughters:** Call on a volunteer to read 1 John 1:9. Ask, “What is the basis for God welcoming those who are saved into fellowship with Himself?” (answer: He is faithful and just). Discuss how the justice of God is satisfied by Jesus using Hebrews 4:14-16. **Ask,** How does God feel about **us** after we sin?
- (c) **Summarize:** whether unsaved or saved, God welcomes us into fellowship with Himself. If unsaved, through faith and repentance. If saved, on the basis of the work of Christ on our behalf which we have already received by faith.

2) “An undeserved gift”

(a) Lost or saved, we are still having to deal with the effect of sin on our relationship with God. Last week we used an analogy (vertical jump to the moon) to describe how far short we come from earning saving grace. The swimming the Atlantic illustration from Page 39 explains that we likewise fall pitifully short of earning our ongoing relationship with God after salvation.

3) “Into fellowship with Himself”. When we enter into fellowship with God, what can we expect grace to provide?

(a) **Grace secures our salvation.** Eph 2:1-9 (your self-righteousness didn't earn salvation or the right to have fellowship with God after being saved); 1 John 1:9 (forgiveness here is not a matter of salvation, but of fellowship and cleansing from the remnants of sin through the life-long sanctification process).

(b) **Grace secures our ongoing relationship** (Hebrews 4:14-16). In contrast, the counterfeit of shame keeps us at arm's length, expecting God's disappointment. While the counterfeit of self-effort gives us false pride and keeps us from relying on God to bear fruit that glorifies Himself (and not us).

(c) **Grace sustains us in our trials, gives us strength in our weakness, and empowers us to live on mission** (Day 4).

(i) On page 65, write down some trials that you need God's grace to help you address.

(ii) Write down personal weaknesses through which God can demonstrate His power. Write down any weaknesses toward temptation that God needs to overcome in your life through His grace.

(iii) Write down the three primary ways God is wanting to use you to extend the rule and reign of Jesus in others.

(d) **Grace gives us a heart of praise** (Day 5). Direct your class's attention to page 61. Read or have someone read the following quote from page 61: "God's grace is what makes the manifold praiseworthy attributes of the infinite God of the universe accessible to our enjoyment. Were it not for God's grace, His mighty power, majestic splendor, righteous wrath, and radiant holiness would be overwhelmingly terrifying—even dangerous, to say the least. But grace bridges the gap between us and God's other excellencies. Grace ever-welcomes us into fellowship with *that* God!"

5. GUIDE MEMBERS TO RESPOND (5-10 minutes)

Engage the class member's WORSHIP ("Knowing what I must do with this truth I now value, how will I respond to the Lord?")

- a. Direct your class to turn to page 65 in their personal journal. Have them write down any personal obstacle (thoughts, feelings, circumstances, weakness) God brought to mind this week or during today's lesson and/or sermon that tends to keep them from immediately entering into fellowship with God to receive the mercy and grace needed to live the Christian life.
- b. Direct them to write down the truth about grace in response to each of these obstacles.
- c. Give them 1-2 minutes to write down a prayer of response.

ANCHORING RESPONSES TO THE GOSPEL

Gospel encouragement: This does not need to be explicitly stated (though there may be times you elect to), but as you guide members to respond to these lessons, you may need to in one way or another remind the class that God never calls us to live "for" Him, apart from Him. When we abide in Christ by walking in the Spirit, He enables us to live far above what our self-righteousness observance of rules can accomplish. God is able to produce righteousness in us that brings Him glory when we walk by faith.

What does a gospel-centered response look like?

- 1) Pray to God about the response He wants you to make.
- 2) Confess that you're unable to do this apart from Him.
- 3) Confess that since you have been set free from the power of sin, it no longer has power over you.
- 4) Ask for God's supernatural help.
- 5) Walk in obedience with unbroken prayer and dependance on God.
- 6) If you slip, that indicates you have slipped back into self-reliance. Enter into God's presence to receive grace and mercy, knowing you are welcome there based on the work of Jesus for you.
- 7) Begin again with dependance on God and confidence that He is eager to cleanse, restore, and abide with you as you begin again.

UNSHAKEABLE

Teacher Preparation Guide

Teaching directly from the UNSHAKEABLE Personal Journal is **not** advised.
Use this Preparation Guide to develop your own Custom Teaching Plan.
All teacher resources online at FBCBRYAN.ORG/UNSHAKEABLE

1. Sunday afternoon, or very early in the week

1. Pray the Holy Spirit will guide your preparation without any hindrance.
2. Quickly read through all of this Week's Daily Readings in one sitting.
3. With a highlighter, mark the key Scripture passages in this Week's Lesson.

2. Monday - Friday

1. Every day, quickly re-read the highlighted Scripture passages.
2. Read through one Daily Reading per day, prayerfully working through it and completing the questions.
3. Throughout your preparation, make notes of any supporting scriptures, truths, illustrations, or questions the Lord brings to mind.

3. On or before Wednesday

1. Prayerfully read through this Week's Suggested Teaching Plan.

4. By Saturday

1. Skim all of this week's Daily Readings and Suggested Teaching Plan for any notes you have taken throughout the week.
2. Pray for the Holy Spirit's directing as you narrow your focus and finalize your preparation. You do not have to re-teach all the content of the Daily Readings; zero in on specific content or themes as He leads.
3. Use the Custom Teaching Plan document to develop a teaching plan for Sunday morning GroupLife based on how the Lord has led your devotional and preparation time.