



## **Fitness Week 5: God's Favor**

At Celebrate, LIFE groups aren't something we do, it's who we are. God did not design us to go through life alone, and LIFE groups are the best way to help you go from just attending a gathering, to connecting with others, and developing a deeper relationship with Jesus.

At this point in the group's life, you should have started to have connections with each other. However, if there are any NEW people joining, THEY are the most important person. If you have a guest, take time to have everyone introduce themselves. Also review group values.

### **Group Values**

- We are all in the same boat (Romans 3:23)
- What is said in group, stays in group (Proverbs 11:13)
- If they are NOT in the room, and it's NOT praise, **DON'T say it** (Proverbs 17:4)
- We don't need to see eye to eye, but we do need to walk hand in hand (Ephesians 4:15)
- If you don't feel comfortable sharing/reading/praying...**THAT IS OK!** (1 John 4:18)

**Ice breaker (10 minutes):** How do you keep your body in shape? What grade would you give yourself right now in keeping in physical shape?

**Introduce 40 days in the Word:** Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> we are going to be starting a journey as a church family of 40 days in God's word. We will provide you with a guide of reading for each week. The plan is set for reading five days a week, which means the weekends are "Grace Days". As a LIFE group, we will be looking at the previous week's reading and talk about what we learned.

### **Message Discussion (30 minutes):**

*HOST NOTE: Encourage members to attend the Sunday gatherings at 10am. If they are not able to attend, encourage them to watch the message:*

*Website: [yankton.church](http://yankton.church)*

*YouTube Channel: [celebrateyankton](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...).*

*Encourage members to also take notes and bring their notes with them to LIFE group.*

## God's FAVOR

**And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him. Luke 2:40**

We looked at three words from this passage: **Child, Grace (Charis), and On.** When we give our lives to Christ, the grace of God comes upon us, and we start to trust God. Share how that happened in your life. What changes did you start to see?

### **Three Myths About God's Favor**

1. **God's Favor is not about Favoritism.** It is easy to look at others in judgement. It is equally as easy to look down on ourselves in the same judgement. In what ways can we show grace to others? To ourselves? *James 2:1*
2. **God's Favor is not about Privilege.** If you are a follower of Jesus, Sunday morning **IS NOT** about you. Following Jesus means we are a servant to others. How are you currently serving others in the church? If you are not, where is an area you feel you can give your gifts to share His love? *John 13:3-5*
3. **God's Favor is not about Pleasure.** Being a follower of Jesus does not make your life better, but it does make you better at life. Earth is not our home, and we will have troubles. How can having this perspective be a comfort to you or others? *John 16:33*

*"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Luke 2:52*

### **Here we looked at three other words: Jesus, Grace (Charis), and With.**

When Jesus was a child, he trusted God, did what pleased God, and God's grace was on him. When Jesus grew, God now trusted Jesus, and His favor was with him. Does God trust you? How can you show this in your money, your relationships, and your body?

Don't just seek the grace of God, seek His favor. It's not about favoritism, privilege, or pleasure. It is an act of worship, where we fully surrender to whatever God desires for my life, no matter the cost.

**Prayer (15 minutes):** Ask if there are any prayer requests. If there are, write down the requests and then pray out loud for each request. Give an opportunity for others to pray if they would like, but NEVER force anyone to pray. Encourage members to write down prayer requests, and pray for each other during the week.

- If "prayer request" turns negative, gently remind of group values
- If major life events, ask for permission to share with Celebrate Prayer team. Send these to Pastor Jeff.