



Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts of the intentions of the heart.

PREVENIENT GRACE

The Grace That Comes Before

Teaching Conference Notes

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Scripture references are included throughout for teaching and study. Readers and teachers are encouraged to read the cited passages directly from their preferred Bible translation.

This material is designed as a teaching resource. The speaker may expand, shorten, or adapt illustrations and discussion time according to the audience and ministry setting.

Teaching Purpose

To help participants recognize the God who reaches, draws, and loves before we understand or respond, and to invite an honest response to His pursuing grace.

Teaching Sections

- Grace That Comes First
- Created for Relationship
- Covenant Love and the God Who Pursues
- Recognizing Prevenient Grace in Everyday Life
- The Question We Must Answer

Teaching Covenant

- Allow Scripture to examine your own heart before applying the teaching to someone else.
- Do not confuse grace with permission to remain unchanged.
- Listen for the invitation of the Holy Spirit and respond honestly.
- Ask, “Lord, what are You saying to me?”

Teaching Section 1: Grace That Comes First

Read

Ephesians 2:4-9; John 6:44

Big Idea

Prevenient grace is God reaching toward us before we are able to claim any credit for reaching toward Him.

Teach

Grace is gift. The New Testament word *charis* points us toward something given rather than earned. Salvation is an expression of grace, but grace is larger than a single moment of conversion.

Prevenient grace describes God’s activity before our conscious response. In the April teaching, this grace is described as present throughout life and especially from conception toward conversion: God draws, awakens, frees, and enables a response.

God remains the initiator. Jesus teaches in John 6:44 that the Father draws people toward Christ. The Holy Spirit woos rather than forces. Grace does not destroy human response; grace makes response possible.

Illustration

Think of courtship. One person reaches, speaks, invites, and makes love known before the other person answers. The invitation is real, but love does not become coercion.

Application

Look backward over your life. Where can you now recognize moments when God was drawing you before you understood what was happening?

Key Statements

- God reaches first.
- Grace is gift, not wages.
- The Holy Spirit woos; He does not force.

Reflection and Discussion

- Where have you experienced God drawing you?
- What is the difference between being invited and being forced?

Teaching Section 2: Created for Relationship

Read

Genesis 1-3; Psalm 139

Big Idea

Our beginning is in the goodness and purpose of God, and humanity was created for relationship with the Creator.

Teach

God created the world and called it good. Humanity was created in God's image, with capacity for relationship, love, stewardship, and response.

The good news of our beginning in God comes before the bad news of sin. Sin brings separation and diminishes spiritual life, but it does not cancel God's pursuit.

Our deepest identity is not established by possessions, position, tribe, success, or failure. We are creatures made by God and called toward relationship with Him.

Application

When identity becomes confused, return to the beginning: Who created me? For what kind of relationship was I made?

Key Statements

- We were created for relationship.
- God called His creation good.
- Sin is serious, but grace is greater than sin.

Reflection and Discussion

- What competes with God for the center of your identity?
- How does creation change the way you understand your worth?

Teaching Section 3: Covenant Love and the God Who Pursues

Read

Genesis 3:8-9; Jeremiah 31:3; John 6:44-47

Big Idea

God's pursuit of humanity is covenantal: relational, faithful, and initiated by His love.

Teach

The biblical story repeatedly shows God entering covenant relationship: Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and the promise of the New Covenant. Covenant is more than a transaction. It binds relationship, promise, and faithfulness together.

After Adam and Eve hid, God came seeking them. "Where are you?" functions in this teaching as an invitation back into relationship, not as evidence that God lacked information.

The prophets repeatedly called God's people back to love and obedience. God's desire is to pursue; His gift is to free; His activity is to empower.

Illustration

A contract asks, "What must each party deliver?" Covenant asks a deeper question: "To whom have I given myself in faithful relationship?"

Application

Do not reduce Christianity to a transaction in which good behavior purchases God's favor. Receive the relationship God offers on His terms.

Key Statements

- God seeks us before we seek Him.
- Covenant is relational, not merely transactional.
- God's love pursues and invites.

Reflection and Discussion

- Where have you treated your relationship with God more like a contract than a covenant?
- What does God's pursuit tell you about His character?

Teaching Section 4: Recognizing Prevenient Grace in Everyday Life

Read

Acts 17:26-28; John 16:8-13

Big Idea

God can use ordinary and extraordinary moments, people, the Church, and the Holy Spirit to awaken us to His presence and our need for Him.

Teach

Prevenient grace may become visible through joyful events and painful events, through the sacrifices of people who care for us, through worship and Christian community, and through the Holy Spirit awakening conscience.

God can use words, actions, and attitudes in the lives of believers as instruments of grace. We do not become the source of grace; we become witnesses through whom another person may encounter God's love.

This calls for attentiveness. We learn to ask not only, "What is happening to me?" but also, "Where might God be drawing me in the middle of this?"

Application

Pay attention this week to people, circumstances, conviction, worship, Scripture, and unexpected moments that turn your attention toward God.

Key Statements

- Grace often arrives before we have language for it.
- God uses people without making people the source of grace.
- Awareness should lead toward response.

Reflection and Discussion

- Who has embodied God's grace to you?
- How might God use your words, actions, or attitudes to reach someone else?

Teaching Section 5: The Question We Must Answer

Read

Mark 1:14-15; Revelation 3:20

Big Idea

Prevenient grace leads to a real invitation: Will we open our hearts and respond to the God who is drawing us?

Teach

God's initiative does not make our response meaningless. The April teaching ends with a direct question: Will we open our hearts to God?

Grace calls us deeper. We cannot transform ourselves to earn a seat at the table of grace. We can, however, receive what God gives and respond in repentance, faith, trust, and obedience.

The movement of prevenient grace prepares the way for justifying grace: God has made the first move; now the person is invited to say yes.

Application

Name one concrete response to God: prayer, Scripture, confession, conversation with a mature believer, or a clear act of obedience.

Key Statements

- God's grace invites response.
- We cannot earn grace.
- The invitation is personal: Will you open your heart?

Reflection and Discussion

- Where do you sense God reaching toward you now?
- What would an honest "yes" to God look like this week?

Closing Challenge

God has been reaching toward you longer than you have been reaching toward Him. Look for His grace, receive His invitation, and answer with an open heart.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for the grace that comes before our response. Open our eyes to the ways You have been drawing us. Give us courage to answer Your invitation with faith, trust, and obedience. In Jesus' name, amen.

Personal Response

What is the Lord showing me personally?

What truth do I need to receive or obey?

What specific act of obedience will begin this week?

Grace Before We Recognize Grace

Read

Psalm 139:1-18; Jeremiah 1:5

Deepening the Teaching

Prevenient grace teaches us to look for God before the moment we consciously recognized Him. God is not introduced into our story only at conversion. The April teaching emphasizes that God is already drawing, awakening, and making response possible.

This does not mean every event is caused by God or that every feeling is a divine message. It means we can prayerfully look back and recognize ways God used people, circumstances, Scripture, worship, conviction, and mercy to awaken us.

Teaching Application

Ask participants to draw a simple timeline of their lives and mark three moments when, looking back, they can see God drawing them.

Key Takeaway

Grace is not merely a truth to understand; it is God's gift to receive and a life to live.

Notes / Personal Response

Grace and Human Response

Read

Deuteronomy 30:19-20; Revelation 3:20

Deepening the Teaching

Grace takes the initiative without reducing people to machines. God calls, draws, convicts, and enables; human beings are invited to respond. This protects two truths at once: salvation begins with God, and our response matters.

The Holy Spirit woos rather than forces. Christian invitation therefore should resemble God’s character: truthful, loving, patient, and free from manipulation.

Teaching Application

Discuss the difference between spiritual invitation and spiritual pressure. How can leaders present the gospel clearly without coercion?

Key Takeaway

Grace is not merely a truth to understand; it is God’s gift to receive and a life to live.

Notes / Personal Response

The Image of God and Human Worth

Read

Genesis 1:26-31

Deepening the Teaching

Prevenient grace rests within the larger truth that humanity is God's creation. Before we speak of failure, we remember purpose. People possess worth because they are created by God, not because they have earned spiritual status.

This gives the Church a reason to treat every person with dignity, including those who have not yet responded to Christ. The person we meet may already be experiencing God's drawing in ways we cannot see.

Teaching Application

Name practical ways a church can treat seekers, doubters, children, the poor, and outsiders as people of God-given dignity.

Key Takeaway

Grace is not merely a truth to understand; it is God's gift to receive and a life to live.

Notes / Personal Response

Covenant Through the Biblical Story

Read

Genesis 9; Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:3-6; 2 Samuel 7; Jeremiah 31:31-34

Deepening the Teaching

Your April material traces covenant through Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, the prophets, and the New Covenant. The repeated pattern is God moving toward people, making promise, calling for trust, and sustaining His redemptive purpose.

Covenant helps us understand grace relationally. Christianity is not merely receiving a benefit from God; it is being called into faithful relationship with God.

Teaching Application

Have participants identify what each covenant reveals about God's initiative and faithfulness.

Key Takeaway

Grace is not merely a truth to understand; it is God's gift to receive and a life to live.

Notes / Personal Response

Grace Through People

Read

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Deepening the Teaching

God frequently uses people as instruments of prevenient grace. A parent who prays, a friend who listens, a teacher who speaks truth, or a believer who serves quietly may become part of another person’s awakening.

We must not confuse the instrument with the source. God gives grace. Our responsibility is faithfulness: words, actions, and attitudes that make the character of Christ visible.

Teaching Application

Ask: Who was an instrument of grace in your life? Whose life might God be asking you to touch now?

Key Takeaway

Grace is not merely a truth to understand; it is God’s gift to receive and a life to live.

Notes / Personal Response

Grace in Difficult Seasons

Read

Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Deepening the Teaching

The April teaching notes that God may reach us through both positive and negative life events. This should be taught carefully: suffering is not automatically good, and we should never call evil good. Yet God can meet people in suffering and use even painful seasons to awaken dependence, questions, compassion, and openness.

Grace does not require us to deny pain. It gives us a way to meet pain with God rather than without Him.

Teaching Application

Invite participants to reflect privately on a difficult season in which they later recognized God's presence or invitation.

Key Takeaway

Grace is not merely a truth to understand; it is God's gift to receive and a life to live.

Notes / Personal Response

Becoming an Instrument of Prevenient Grace

Read

Matthew 5:14-16; 1 Peter 3:15-16

Deepening the Teaching

If God reaches people through the body of Christ, then the Church must ask what kind of witness it gives. Our words should agree with our actions. Compassion without truth is incomplete, and truth without love can become harsh.

A gracious witness is attentive, respectful, patient, and ready to explain the hope found in Christ. We do not save people; we faithfully point toward the One who does.

Teaching Application

Develop one concrete action this week: encourage, serve, invite, listen, pray, or share your testimony with someone God places before you.

Key Takeaway

Grace is not merely a truth to understand; it is God's gift to receive and a life to live.

Notes / Personal Response

Conference Response: Where Is God Drawing Me?

Read

John 6:44; Ephesians 2:8-10

Deepening the Teaching

Prevenient grace ends with invitation. God’s initiative is not merely information to understand; it calls for response. The central question from the April material remains: Will we open our hearts to God and allow Him to deepen the relationship He offers through Jesus Christ?

Some may be responding for the first time. Others may already follow Christ but recognize a new area of surrender. Grace continues to call us toward deeper trust.

Teaching Application

Allow several quiet minutes. Ask participants to write: Where is God drawing me? What is my next faithful yes?

Key Takeaway

Grace is not merely a truth to understand; it is God’s gift to receive and a life to live.

Notes / Personal Response
