



# 8 Graces Study Group

## Start Up Guide

### What are *8 Graces Study Groups*?

- *8 Graces Study Groups* are designed to facilitate couples in learning and practicing *The 8 Graces of Marriage*, primarily through discussions based on the short videos introducing core concepts.
- Practicing *The 8 Graces of Marriage* can revolutionize the way a couple interacts, solves conflicts, and works as a team by creating a culture of grace in their marriage. This study can also equip couples for mentoring other couples.

### Starting a *8 Graces Study Group*

- While the material is not hard to complete in a short time, we have found it is **best learned when a group of 3-4 couples** work slowly over several months, one or two graces at a time, discussing together and then practicing each grace at home.
- If there are more than 4-5 couples, we suggest **breaking into smaller groups** to better facilitate discussions.
- The **advantages of group format** include the mutual encouragement, accountability and peer mentoring gained from other couples sharing stories in their grace journeys and praying for one another.
- The **10 teaching videos** run 15-20 min. each. Ideally **couples gather in one location** and stream the video together **directly from the website** (ie. SmartTV or computer hooked up to a TV or projector).

- Each participant will need to **download the 8 Graces - Participant Study Guide** pdf which includes a summary of the video teaching content and both **group and couple specific discussion questions.**
  
- **Format ideas for working through this material:**
  - ▶ A group creates their own schedule and pace for working through the material, meeting weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly.
  - ▶ Meetings can occur at a church while child care is provided (Sun.,Wed.), in someone's home, or even using an online format.
  - ▶ Formats can vary to suit each group's schedule. For example, a gathering could involve simply watching a **Teaching Video** all together and beginning group discussion questions. The next 1-2 gatherings might include continuing the discussion questions or sharing how applying one or more of the graces is going. Another gathering time could be a fun event together.
  
- **Core Concepts Video Content:**
  - ▶ Video 1: *Introduction to 8 Graces*
  - ▶ Video 2: *Grace #1: Confession*
  - ▶ Video 3: *Grace #2: Forgiveness*
  - ▶ Video 4: *Grace #3: Teachability*
  - ▶ Video 5: *Grace #4: Speaking Truth*
  - ▶ Video 6: *Grace #5: Commitment*
  - ▶ Video 7: *Grace #6: Agreement*
  - ▶ Video 8: *Grace #7: Headship*
  - ▶ Video 9: *Grace #8: Submission*
  - ▶ Video 10: *Practicing the 8 Graces*



## FAQ

- **Does someone need to be an experienced small group leader or marriage expert to lead a 8 Graces Study Group?**

No, this course is designed so that groups can learn together.

- **What is the ideal venue for the study group?**

- A room with a large enough screen for the group to watch the streaming videos all together
- A venue layout that facilitates group discussions

- **Do participants download the videos to view later?**

No, the only material participants have for personal study is the downloadable e-booklet.

- **Do couples need to be Christians to participate in the study?**

No, but anyone invited to participate should know that the material is based on principles from the Bible.

- **Do participants need to print anything out for the sessions?**

No, they can view the e-book on their phones or tablets, but they can bring a notebook for taking extra notes.