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Week 6: The Gritty Life of Grace

INTRODUCTION:

SIGNS THAT WE ARE GROWING IN GRACE:

Four Mile-Markers...

1. We understand God is _____ with us (22:1-2)

“Take your son, your only son...”

Psalms 51:1-2 “Happy is the man whose transgressions are forgiven – whose sins the Lord does not count against him!”

2. We are focused on God's _____ to us (22:3-5)

“We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

3. We are confident in God's _____ for us (22:6-8)

“God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering...”

4. Our lives become instruments of _____ (22:9-14)

“So Abraham called that place ‘The LORD will provide’ (Jehova Jireh). And to this day it is said, ‘On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.’”

THE BIG IDEA:

Growing in grace includes being patient with our growth – as God is – resting in His all-sufficient ability to gradually change us from the inside out. Only Jesus can live the Christian life. Our calling is to let Him live it through us!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

PERSONAL LIFE:

1. Thinking back over the four signs of growth from the life of Abraham (assurance that God is pleased with us, being focused on God's promises to us, being confident in God's provision for us and becoming instruments of God's praise) – which evidence of “growing in grace” is most apparent in your life right now? Which seems most lacking and why do you say this? Discuss...

PONDERINGS:

2. His Story is filled with scenes of God's grace and mercy – and yet many Christians are still unsure of the depth of God's love for them. If you could list the “Top 3” reasons for this insecurity, what would they be? Discuss...
3. As you've meditated on the Story of Abraham, what is one *specific and practical* way in which his story encourages you? Explain...
4. Read Hebrews 11:8-17 as a group, and discuss the following thoughts and questions...
 - Vs. 8-10 says that Abraham obeyed God “even though he didn't know where he was going.” Briefly share about a time when you felt the same way – walking totally by faith...
 - Vs. 11 says Abraham was “enabled (by God) to become a father.” Why does it say he was **enabled** to do this? What does this teach us about the true nature of discipleship and spiritual growth?
 - Vs. 12-16 talks about the ancient patriarchs living with faith in God's promises about their future nation – and yet many generations passed before the promise finally came. How does this parallel our journey as modern-day community of disciples? Try to be specific...
 - Vs. 17-19 says that Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac because he reasoned that “God could raise the dead.” Yet in the story of Genesis 22, it seems like Abraham had full confidence that God would provide a lamb instead requiring him to offer Isaac. Is this a contradiction? Why or why not?

PROMPTINGS:

5. Consider once again the four mile-markers we discovered about growing in grace (summarized in question #1 above) and discuss how the body of Christ can communally help one another grow in each area. Try to give practical examples or suggestions...
6. Do you see your life as an instrument of praise? Why or why not? In what way(s) could you become a more passionate worshiper of God? Close by praying for God's Spirit to increase this passion in your life this week...