

## Common Grace

# Small Group Questions



Common grace “refers to the grace of God that is common to all humankind. It is **common** because its benefits are experienced by the whole human race without distinction between one person and another, believers or unbelievers. It is **grace** because it is undeserved and sovereignly bestowed by God.” (<https://www.theopedia.com/common-grace>)

- What do you love about this definition? What (if anything) bothers you?
- Common grace is most often encountered through the goodness of creation or an experience of unexpected kindness. Tell a story of when you experienced this kind of grace.
- God restraining the effects of evil is another form of common grace, though harder to see. Where have you seen or where do you see evidence of God limiting the effects of sin?
- Although COVID killed many people, it is not as deadly as the Ebola virus (which has a mortality rate of approximately 60%). If COVID had a similar mortality rate, millions more people would have died. Is this an example of common grace?
- Have you ever unexpectedly encountered grace in a movie, book, or song? What was it that caught your attention? Was this immediately obvious?

Earth is crammed with heaven  
And every common bush afire with God  
But only he who sees, takes off his shoes  
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries.” (Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh*)

- How might we develop “eyes to see” common grace?
- Scriptures (goodness): Genesis 1:31, Psalm 19:1-4, Acts 14:15-18  
(evil): Genesis 9:8-11, 20:1-6  
(humanity): Genesis 1:26, Ecclesiastes 3:10-11