

Reflective Chapter Questions

For 'Outrageous Grace' by Grace Fabian

For more information and to contact the author check out: www.GraceFabian.com

Chapters 1-3

- We all experience loss of one kind or another. Would you be willing to share in your small group or write in your journal, your experience of loss?
- What stories in the Bible teach us that bad things happen to good people? Read 1 Corinthians 13. Write your own paraphrase of verses 1-3.
- Try to put yourself in Jonathan and Dietlinde's shoes. They are 12,000 miles away when they suddenly receive the news of their father's murder. Read Galatians 6:2. If you were a member of their church, what are three things you could do to help them through this crisis? Is there someone in your life who is facing a job loss, death in the family, a heartbreak, etc. Reach out with a comforting, encouraging gesture to them.

Chapters 4-5

- In what way would Dawn's card with the verse, "I make all things new," give Grace a fresh perspective on human mortality?
- "All I know is that God is utterly dependable," were Grace's words to her son. What do you think this statement reveals about Grace? Refresh your memory of the Book of Job and how he remained faithful to God. Discuss in your group, or write in your journal some practical steps you could take to cultivate that kind of faith in your life.

Chapters 6-7

- How would you describe Edmund's mother? Is there someone in your life with a similar steady, strong faith? What reason/s do you find for their courage?
- Talk to a trusted friend about the struggles you face. Don't be afraid to cry. Read Psalm 137. What picture do you get of the Israelites? Spend time in prayer asking God for the strength and courage to move from the tree where you've hung your harp.
- Sing the words of the song in the heading of chapter 7. Find a verse or verses in the Bible that affirm each statement. Use your concordance if necessary.--
 - ❖ My hope
 - ❖ My light
 - ❖ My strength
 - ❖ My song
 - ❖ Cornerstone
 - ❖ Fierce drought and storm
 - ❖ Heights of love
 - ❖ Depths of peace
 - ❖ Fears are stilled
 - ❖ My comforter
- How do you account for God's love and protection of Edmund's family but not for the one quarter of the population of Poland that perished? Discuss instances where we quickly admit to God's providence when things turn out to our liking. Is God more faithful/good in one case than the other?
- Make a list of ten attributes of God. Find at least one Scripture verse for each one.
- Is prayer a "crazy" thing to do when obviously everything has gone awry? What are some evidences that God heard Mama's prayers?
- Review the story of Joseph (Genesis 37-50) then discuss the two systems that operated in tandem: the brothers' evil intent and God's sovereignty (Gen. 50:20). See also Ps. 76:10.

Chapters 8-9

- Grace's father and Miss Tyler were bright lights in Grace's world. Have you known such a person? In what ways could you be a positive voice to someone else?
- What strong "building blocks" did Grace's father give to her? Why is it important to have a solid Christian foundation?
- How did the model of forgiveness demonstrated by Grace's father affect her when she faced a big test 24 years later?
- Do you think it's important to present missions to children? Why? If you have never invited a missionary to your home for a meal, invite someone at the first opportunity.
- Plan at least one way you could involve children more fully in your church's missions program. Green light with others in your small group.

Chapter 10

- Do you like people to think of you as a strong, all-together, spiritually dedicated person or do you, like Grace, admit to weakness? Why was it easy to speak of God's call while back in the U.S.A but so difficult in Brisbane, Australia?
- Discuss David Livingstone's statement, "Cut any cord." What are some of the cords which fetter us and hold us back from a higher destiny God has planned for us? What holds YOU back?
- What steps of obedience may God be calling you to do? Pray, using David Livingstone's words, and ask God to show you what He wants you to surrender. Rededicate your life to the Lord and to His eternal purposes.

Chapter 11

- Locate Papua New Guinea on a world map or globe. What are your reactions to the statistics found on page 70?
- Describe a time when you faced what seemed to be the untimely death of a young adult. How did you respond?

Chapter 12

- Have you ever learned another language? Do you feel uncomfortable and distrust those who are different than you? Read Ephesians 2:11-22. Verse 14 talks about "the dividing wall of hostility." This is probably an allusion to the wall in the temple which separated Gentiles from Jews. What did Jesus' death do to that wall? What walls (racial, social, economic) stand between you and others coming together as "members of God's household?"
- Reflect on Edmund and Grace's life in a Nabak community. How can you invite people of other ethnicities into the fellowship of believers?

Chapters 13-14

- Think about the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:45-48 and John 20:20-21. How could we "make disciples" (not just converts) if people did not have the Word of God in their own language? Reread Richard Foster's prayer at the opening of chapter 13. What would be the surest way for the Fabians to move from "strangers in a strange land" to friendship.
- Read the story of Pentecost in Acts 2. What are the implications as we take the gospel to the peoples of the world? English seems to be the language of today's world, as Greek was in the first century. Do you agree that we need to learn the heart language of people and share the gospel with them in that language? Why was it important for the Fabians to do the hard work of identifying the distinctives of the Nabak culture.
- Thank the Lord that you are able to hold the Word of God in your language. Take some time to pray for the more than 2,000 language groups in the world that have no Scripture at all and need Bible translation. Use 'Operation World' by Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk, as a tool for prayer. Choose a country that interests you and commit to learn more about people living there. Start praying for the specific needs of that country and asking God's Spirit to move powerfully there. See Psalm 2:8, Daniel 7:27, Revelation 2:26.
- Have each one in your group look through a straw and describe what they see. Each view will be very different but still be of the same room. Tape your straw onto the bathroom mirror to remind you to pray for wisdom for missionaries you know who face cross-cultural issues every day.

Chapter 15

- Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20. Why do you think this Nabak mother would choose to let her baby die rather than go for medical help? How does the story in this chapter challenge your prayers for missionaries living in other cultures?

- Ponder the choices people made in the following passages: Genesis 39:6-23, Joshua 24:14-15, Matthew 25:1-13. When have you had to live with the consequences of a foolish decision? Divide a piece of paper in half. On the left side list choices you have made in the past that were unwise/poor decisions. On the right side write one thing you could do in each instance to make a healthier decision next time.
- Write the words CHOOSE LIFE on a 3x5 card and place it in a prominent place to remind you to make choices today that are toward growth and vitality in your Christian life. Let these words affect not just major decisions of your life but the little ones.
- Psalm 119:50 says that His word gives life. Share a verse of Scripture with someone today--in a greeting card or e-mail or over the phone.
- John 10:10 says that Jesus gives abundant life. Jesus is the only means of receiving eternal life. If you have never made this choice of life, or you do not understand what that means, read the "Message of Salvation" in the next section of this book for a clear presentation of the gospel.

Chapter 16

- Divide the group into pairs. Think of some object lesson or visual you could use to demonstrate the plan of salvation that would be culturally relevant like the 'Red Knot' was relevant for the Nabaks.
- Have another group pretend to be unbelievers. Explain the gospel to them using your illustration.
- If you don't already have a clear way of explaining the plan of salvation if someone would ask refer to www.gracefabian.com for a possible idea you could use.

Chapter 17

- If you lived in a Nabak community what would your Nabak name be? What was Grace's new name? Coupled with receiving their blood and a Nabak name, how do you think Grace felt?
- Do you agree with John Powell's quote at the beginning of the chapter, "Everyone must learn to believe in someone or something so deeply that life is charged with meaning and a sense of mission?" If you do not have a personal mission statement, take time to write one so your life will be charged with meaning.

Chapters 18-19

- Similar to what Edmund did, write out your testimony. Practice it with someone in your family, and then share it with an unbelieving neighbor or colleague.
- Kondo, the Fabians' co-translator, left a sweet aroma of God's presence. Are you convicted by Kondo's words, "Most often we Christians stay tightly closed like these buds?" If this is true of you, what will you do about it? List some ways you can be a sweet fragrance to others. Choose at least one item on your list each day this week and let the fragrance of Christ in you waft out to others.

Chapter 20-21

- Do you think forgiveness is a process or a one-time act? Have you faced a major forgiveness moment with someone you love? Can you look back to ways God prepared you so that you did not crumble?
- Describe the contrastive image at the airport: Grace huddled with her children, and a Papua New Guinea woman gone crazy with grief. What solid truths helped Grace and her children?
- If you had the opportunity, what words of comfort and truth would you give to a person in the "same logjam of emotions?"
- How do you picture the battle between God and Satan--
- As an arm wrestling contest and you are cheering hoping God will come out on top
- We have a quick fix by exorcising demons
- Such things as demons and spiritual warfare are outdated beliefs held by uncivilized people
- Right now Satan has the upper hand but in the end God will win
- When I am clothed with the full armor of God, I am invincible to Satan's arrows
- Read Ephesians 6 and list the pieces of armor that God has provided to protect you.
- Read Psalm 34:7, Psalm 91:11, Hebrews 12:2, Romans 8:31 to be assured that we are never alone, even in the midst of a spiritual battle. Add other verses and other Bible stories like the one recorded in 2 Kings 6.

Chapter 22

- What feelings about worship does Revelation 5:11-14 bring out in you? What is the central purpose of worship?
- Discuss Ross' statement at the beginning of this chapter, "It's an awesome God who enables a person to trust Him enough to say, against all his natural instincts, "You know what is best."
- What, of all Ross Webb said at the funeral, do you find most comforting? Think back over conversations you have had with someone facing grief over the loss of a loved one. Were you able to be a true comforter and friend to them?

Chapter 23

- Grace talks about being a translator but also wanting to obey the Word she was translating. In what ways do you think Christians are guilty of sometimes reading and studying God's Word, but not applying it to their lives and obeying it? And Jane Pappenhagen is quoted, "If we love Him, we obey Him." Are we guilty of saying/singing that we love Him but hesitate to obey Him?
- What do you think Psalm 84:7 means when it talking about going "from strength to strength?"
- If you are struggling with forgiving someone who has hurt you, or if you know you have offended someone and want to make peace, read "Move Toward Forgiveness and Reconciliation" which is also written and designed by Grace and can be downloaded from the 'Book' page of her website www.GraceFabian.com.

Chapter 24-25

- Ponder the diagram on page 130 "Ready for Either." Are missionaries the only ones who should be ready? Kneel beside your bed before the day is out and surrender all to Him.

Chapter 26

- God's presence was very real to Grace when she woke from her dream. Do her conclusions accurately fit the teaching of Scripture that the Father has given us His Spirit 'til the work on earth is done. List Scripture verses to back up your statement. Sing Melody Green's song 'There is a Redeemer.' http://www.lyricsfreak.com/k/keith+green/there+is+a+redeemer_20077361.html

Chapter 27

- Reflect on the words of the sons of Korah in Psalm 46. The life they describe sounds chaotic with land slides, tsunamis and earthquakes. But even though surrounded by all this environmental havoc there is a river that is undisturbed by the disasters around it. What does that river bring?
- Memorize this Psalm. Pray for those who are spreading the gospel around the world.

Chapter 28

- Can you ever imagine telling someone that you hated the hard circumstance that you had to go through but it was worth it because of the beautiful words God whispered to you?
- Deuteronomy 6:1-9 reminds us of the importance of total commitment when following God. Evaluate some area of your life that is most difficult to give totally to God. What is similar to your commitment and what God was asking Grace to do?

Chapter 29

- Read the five sections in the New Testament that talk about the gifts of the Spirit and "grace gifts": 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11 and 1 Peter 4:11. What gifts do you recognize that God has given to you?
- Why is it significant that the love chapter comes right in the middle of Paul's discussion of the gifts of the Spirit?
- When Paul talks about gifts he uses the analogy of the body. Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-26. Only together can we accomplish all the work God is calling the church to do. Can one individual member do all the work on their own? Is one person equipped to do everything? What if one part does not carry out its responsibility? Since the gifts are given, can we claim credit for them?
- Should we only do the things we think we are gifted for? See 2 Timothy 4:5.

Chapter 30

- How did God surprise Jonathan by using his willingness to return to the Nabak people? What impacted you the most by this story?

Chapter 31

- If you were Grace would you have been tempted to throw in the towel? Did the story in Mark 14 remind you of how Grace and her twins sat in the clinic and heard the dripping in the pail? In what way did the Lord transform the translation office?

Chapter 32

- Why does Grace call her experience in the hospital yard that day as, “standing in His presence on holy ground?”

Chapter 33

- What was so dissatisfying about the day in court? Why do you think the judge, state prosecutor and court psychiatrist made the decision they did? Was there something else Grace could have/should have done?
- Grace writes that 1 Peter 2:21-23 became her “guiding light.” When there are hard questions, where do you turn? Psalm 119:138 says, “Your decrees are perfect; they are entirely worthy of our trust.” Relate an experience where you have found His Word absolutely trustworthy.

Chapter 34

- Join Amy Carmichael and Grace in the prayer at the bottom of page 174-, “Long is the way, and very steep the slope, Strengthen me once again, O God of Hope.”
- After an extremely exhausting day Amy said, “Everybody say what you are thankful for.”
- Join the Fabians to give thanks for the good things in your life--your friends, family, home, church, job. Thank Him for enlarging your thinking through difficult times, and for the assurances from His Word. Thank Him for forgiveness of your sins of the past, His sweet presence with you today and the hope you have for the future.

Chapter 35 - 36

- Wouldn't you love to meet Papa Singgema? Well, you will some day in heaven. Do you think we take the Word of God for granted in this country? Picture yourself in Papua New Guinea that day seeing Papa clasp his Bible close to his chest and hearing his words, “Now I can die; I've seen the book.” What can you do to show a greater appreciation for your Bible?
- How did James Mineyu's analogy of the ‘kambun’ challenge your thinking about God's Word? What does God's Word do for us? List here, along with Scripture verses, why is it important to “live inside” God's Word.

Chapter 37-38

- Could you join with Grace in saying, “Bravo, Lord, Bravo!” when the family was lovingly inducted into the Sanau clan?
- What, of all the celebrations, took your breath away?
- What encouragement do you find in the discovery that the Fabian's loss is part of a greater story?

Summary of Entire Book

- What is your favorite part of the book?
- What challenged you the most from the book?
- How has your vision of the world been enlarged?
- What will you do differently now that you've read this book?
- Who will you work on forgiving?
- Who will you work on making restitution with that you've hurt?