

## Module # 3

# Environment of Grace:

## *Grace and the Benefits of a Safe Place*

### Learning Objectives

- Participants will understand how environments of grace, humility, trust and vulnerability work their way into relationships.
- Participants will choose to risk and be vulnerable with trusted friends.

*“Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?”*

~ Galatians 3:5



*“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.”*

~ Robert Frost

**D**oes the God who lavishly provides you with his own presence, his Holy Spirit, working things in your lives you could never do for yourselves, does he do these things because of your strenuous moral striving or because you trust him to do them in you?

### Movie Clip

Read through the questions below before watching the video (55 minutes).

#### *Who Do We Need to Be? (The TrueFaced Message-DVD)*

Talk by John Lynch at the Navigators Staff Conference, Leadership Catalyst, 2003

**I**f my motive is a determination to please God, where will that take me? What will be my value, and what will I do with my sin?

**I**f my motive is trusting God, what will be my value, and what will I do with my sin?

**E**xplain Hebrews 11:6 by what you learned from the video.

*"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."*

**1 Peter 5:5**

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Someone has ingeniously defined humility as “trusting God and others with myself.” This definition is based on a good understanding of grace, for when we trust God and others with who we really are, we begin to create what we might call environments of grace. We show, by the way we live and by the relationships of trust we build, how grace works. And this inevitably invites others to dare to trust and live by grace as well.

**H**ow does humility impact relationships of trust?

**W**hat happens to our relationships when we base our value or worth on our performance?

**Integration** (5 minutes)

**A**n environment of grace is a social grouping in which people relate to each other with unmerited (not based on performance) concern and favor.

**W**hat would it look like to treat each other with grace?

**Planning and Debriefing  
Missional Adventures**

- How did it go last time?
- What did we learn?
- What are we doing next week?
- What plans need to be made?
- What and who do we need to pray for?

## *Read and Reflect for Our Next Community Time Together*

**W**hat are the “traffic patterns” of your week? Where are you, with whom, doing what?

**W**ho is “next to” you in your weekly traffic patterns? Who do you naturally interact with on a regular basis? (Coworkers, families, neighbors, coffee shop, book club, recreational, social, etc.)

**W**hat do you enjoy and who do you enjoy doing it with? Who are some of those people that you have an interest to connect with more?

**F**ill in the following chart with the names of people who are in your “traffic pattern.” These people don’t need to leave anything, go anywhere, or join anything to see and hear Jesus. The invisible Christ is made visible to them through your life.

Family	Casual	Neighbors	Friends	Coworkers