

Study Series: All of Grace

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Lesson Title: “Standing to the Last” (pp. 69-80)

Session 6

April 10, 2022

The main point of this lesson is: Christians persevering to the end is work accomplished by Father, Son, and Spirit.

Focus on this goal: To help adults look to Jesus as not only the author of their faith, but its finisher as well

Key Bible Passage:1 Corinthians 1:7-9

Before the Session

1. Label a board or large piece of paper with the following: childhood, high school, first job, child rearing, career. (Step 1)

2. Enlist a class member who is excellent in some skill to share a brief history of learning that skill. (Step 4)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Point to the seasons of life. Say: These are different seasons of life that most everyone experiences. They have distinct beginnings and distinct ends. Discuss what marks the beginning of each season, what helps that season to be successful, and what marks its end.

Add life to the board. Say: Just as seasons of life end, our earthly life ends as well. Today we’re going to look at how we can persevere to the end successfully.

Step 2. The Fear of Final Falling, Part 1

Invite a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 1:7-9 from page 70; enlist a few others to read it from different translations.

Guide learners to look at verse 4, seeing that Paul wrote to believers, so we may take these words to heart ourselves. Ask: According to verses 7-9, what do we need as we look to the end of our lives?

Use the Day One content to point out we depend on God’s grace for confirmation, continuance, final perseverance, and preservation to the end. Ask: Do you ever fear that you won’t persevere in your faith until the end of life?

Use the first paragraph of Day One (p. 69) to indicate that some people fear this because they depend upon themselves.

Step 3. The Fear of Final Falling, Part 2

Invite a volunteer to read Philippians 1:6. Ask: Who began the good work? Who is faithful? Who will complete it? Point out that God starts, continues, and ends our faith.

Ask for a show of hands for the question: Who feels confident that, without God’s grace, you’d do just fine in the Christian walk of faith from now until the end of your life?

Direct learners to the second Day Two paragraph (pp. 71-72), pointing out we are completely fallible on our own, regardless of our intentions or convictions. Read the last two sentences of the paragraph (p. 72). Repeat them. Say: If we believed this, how might it teach us to be more dependent upon the Lord for every aspect of faith?

Step 4. Confirmation, Part 1

Invite your pre-enlisted volunteer to share a brief history of learning the skill by answering the following questions: What got you interested in this skill? How did you practice? How often and how long would you practice? What do you do now without thinking about it that took many hours (years?) of practice?

Direct learners to the second paragraph of Day Three (p. 73) and draw the parallel between your volunteer’s skill and holy habits.

Read the pull quote from day Three (p. 73): “Experience and practice confirm our beliefs and our resolutions.” As a group, consider the benefits of being confirmed according to the grace of our Lord.

Use the last paragraph of Day Three (p. 74) to point to specific ways a confirmed believer benefits a local body.

Step 5. Confirmation, Part 2

Direct learners back to 1 Corinthians 1:7-9 (p. 70 or their Bibles), looking at the word “confirm” in the King James. Invite a few volunteers to share words used in its place in other translations (“establish,” “strengthen,” “keep . . . firm,” and “sustain” and others).

Use the Day Four content (pp. 75-76) to help learners understand that God’s confirmation of our faith is eternal.

Direct learners to the second paragraph of Day Four (pp. 75-76) to follow along as you read it.

As a group, assess the blamelessness of the world church, Christians in your own congregation, and in your group. Challenge learners to consider their own blamelessness (see Ps. 19:14) as confirmation of their salvation.

Step 6. Why Saints Persevere

Invite a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 1:7-9 one last time. This time emphasize the words “God is faithful” at the beginning of verse 9.

Say: This is the reason we can persevere; not because we are strong or dependable, but because God is faithful.

As a group, underline the phrase, “God is faithful” and “He is faithful” each time it appears in the first paragraph of Day Five (p. 77).

As a group, consider all the various reasons given by the author and encourage learners to come back to this paragraph when they doubt their own ability.

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Close out this study by considering the title: All of Grace.

Say: We didn’t really dig deeply into this title at the start of the study, but after six weeks of study, how would you connect this title to what we’ve learned? Encourage learners to consider this title as a reminder that we are utterly dependent upon God, and He alone is willing and able to provide all we need.

Close with prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to remind us of God’s truths explained beautifully in All of Grace.

