

Conversation Guides on Grace

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Interviewing an individual (most likely a development facilitator)

Introduction

The essence of transformation involves confessing sin with a repentant heart, receiving God's forgiveness, and then desiring to please God by living according to Kingdom values guided by God's grace. Let's explore what grace is, and how it affects the development work in this situation.

Pray for openness to new thinking about God's love for us in spite of the fact that we do not deserve it.

1. What is grace? Tell me your understanding about it. [Probe for specific details about the nature of grace as the respondent understands it.]
2. Describe how you have experienced receiving something that you did not expect.
 - Tell what you received.
 - Describe what you felt.
 - How has that experience affected how you think and act?
3. What have you learned about how people in this community think about what they receive from God? [Probe for specific examples, and explore them in some detail.]
4. How are you applying what you have learned about this to your work in the community?

Interviewing a group of church leaders

The purpose of this discussion is to explore important relationships between the mission of the church in this community and community development.

1. What are basic principles of community development?
2. How does implementation of the church's mission relate to community development?
3. Describe different situations in this community where forgiveness is needed. [Probe for specific details.]
4. What does the church do to encourage and enable people to forgive each other?
5. How can development activities support the church in helping people to recognize and accept God's grace? [Relate discussion points to points made earlier in the conversation about forgiveness.]