

Established in Grace: The Power You Never Had to Earn

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

MID-WEEK SERVICE | JULY 8TH, 2026 | 7 PM

Teacher: Pastor Mirek Hufton | Series: Being Established

1. SERMON RECAP

Pastor Mirek Hufton continued his series on being established by turning to Hebrews 13:9, where Scripture calls believers to have their hearts established by grace. He unpacked grace not merely as forgiveness freely received, but as active, supernatural power that God makes available to every believer for every area of life. He challenged the group to recognize that the same grace that saved us is the very grace designed to sustain, strengthen, and grow us day by day.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 13:9 (NKJV)

"Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them."

3. ICE BREAKER

Think of a moment in your life when something worked out far better than your own effort or planning could explain. Without overthinking it, share the story in two or three sentences -- what happened, and how did it make you feel?

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Getting grounded in the concept

Pastor Mirek described being "established" as being unmovable, well-grounded, and not tossed around by every new doctrine or emotional wave. In what areas of your faith life do you feel most established right now -- and where do you feel like you're still being tossed around?

2. Receiving vs. earning

He drew a clear line from Romans 4:4-5 and Ephesians 2:8-9 -- salvation comes through believing, not

working. Most of us agree with that theologically, but Pastor Mirek pointed out that once we're saved, we often slip back into trying to earn God's favor through our own effort. Where do you notice that "earning" mindset creeping into your walk with God day to day?

3. Grace as power, not just pardon

One of the most striking points Pastor Mirek made was that grace is not only the forgiveness that got us in the door -- it is genuine supernatural ability and strength for every challenge we face. How does thinking of grace as power rather than just pardon change the way you might approach a current struggle or responsibility in your life?

4. The pride and humility connection

He returned several times to James 4:6 -- "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Pastor Mirek was honest that pride can be subtle, and that partial success is one of the most common entry points for it. How do you personally recognize when pride is pulling you out of the flow of grace, and what helps you reposition yourself in humility?

5. Don't receive grace in vain

Quoting 2 Corinthians 6:1, Pastor Mirek warned that grace can be poured out while we remain completely unpositioned to receive it -- running too fast, leaning on our own strength, or not bringing our needs to God in prayer. What practical habits or rhythms help you stay positioned to actually receive the grace God is offering?

6. Growing in grace

Pastor Mirek closed by pointing to 2 Peter 3:18 -- "Grow in the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." He suggested that as we grow in grace, we become too large to fit back in the small box of self-reliance we came out of. What would it look like, practically, for you to grow in grace in one specific area of your life over the next season?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, identify one situation -- a relationship tension, a work challenge, a ministry responsibility, or a personal decision -- where you have been relying primarily on your own strength or wisdom. Before you do anything else about it, take five to ten minutes each morning to go specifically to the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16), name the situation out loud to God, and ask Him for the supernatural ability to handle it in a way that is beyond your natural capability. At the end of the week, make a brief note of anything that shifted -- in circumstances, in your attitude, or in your peace level -- and be ready to share it with your group.

6. PRAYER POINTS

- For humility across the group: Pray that each member would quickly recognize when pride or self-reliance is pulling them out of the flow of grace, and that the Holy Spirit would gently redirect them back to dependence on God.

- For specific grace in specific needs: Invite group members to name one area -- a marriage, a business decision, a health challenge, a ministry role -- and pray together that God would pour out His abundant, supernatural grace into that exact situation this week.
 - For boldness in sharing grace with others: Pastor Mirek shared powerful stories of reaching people in Washington, D.C. who were far from God. Pray that your group members would carry the grace message into their everyday conversations and relationships, reflecting the unconditional love of Jesus to people who feel they have gone too far to be reached.
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7. MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV)

"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Leader's Tip: If conversation slows down, return to this simple question -- "Where in your life right now do you most need God's grace to show up as power?" Almost everyone has an honest answer to that one.