

Finding Grace Discussion Questions

Chapter One

- During his morning devotions, Larry reads Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” He knew the verse from memory, but when he read it aloud, it was as if he were reading it for the first time. Has that ever happened to you? What familiar Scripture affected you in a powerful and unexpected way?
- When Larry asked the Lord, “Is there something you want me to do?” the two-word response caught Larry off guard. Have you had a similar experience where God impressed something on your heart that didn’t make sense at that moment?
- In this opening chapter, we learn Larry’s backstory of divorce and his struggles with self-condemnation. He felt like a complete failure, but his dog, Gus, didn’t think he was. In many ways, Gus was Larry’s personal therapy dog. Whether or not you have a pet of your own, do you believe animals can help change a person’s negative outlook to a positive one?

Chapter Two

- Larry shares God’s message with his wife, Susan, and his business partner, Brad. How did their reactions give Larry more clarity about his next step? Have you been on the fence regarding a path God wanted you to take? Who offered you wise counsel?

Chapter Three

- When Larry, Susan, and Cody visit Sister Agnes, she describes her ministry to her neighbors as one of presence, being there for people who have no one they can talk to or who will listen. Larry realizes this is exactly what the therapy dog ministry could do too. How have you been present for someone who was hurting? Can you remember a time when someone offered their presence to you when you needed it?
- Larry sits down with Pastor Matthew to share his idea and says, “I believe people can encounter God’s love and compassion through dogs—sometimes even more so than they can through people.” Would you agree with Larry?
- As Larry and Cody are leaving, Pastor Matthew says to Cody, “Thank you for being Jesus in fur to me today.” Larry admits to himself that he doesn’t exactly know what “Jesus in fur” means. How would you explain it to him?

Chapter Four

- Larry, Susan, and Cody visit Sister Agnes again and tell her the news that their church is

backing the therapy dog ministry. Agnes is thrilled and says to Larry, “You were made to do this work. When people are doing God’s work, they have a light about them—a joy that comes from doing what you were put on this earth to do.” Can you think of anyone in your life who fits that description?

- Agnes introduces Larry to her neighbor Sam. Why is Sam the perfect person for Larry and Cody to initially minister to?

Chapters Six and Seven

- It’s been nine months since Larry and Cody started spending time with patients at the VA hospital, and Larry has learned “when to offer prayer and when to simply let Cody offer God’s love and nearness to someone.” Is that something you also have learned in your interactions with people—sometimes you pray and sometimes you’re quietly present?
- Did any of the regulars whom Larry and Cody saw each time especially touch your heart? If so, why?
- In chapter seven, Larry and Cody participate in a clinical study involving a man in a coma. Did the results surprise you?

Chapter Eight

- God provides two answers to prayer at the beginning of this chapter. What are they? Have you been an answer to prayer for someone or been able to provide something that they needed?

Chapter Ten

- One place Larry and Cody and then Gracie loved visiting was the Trinity school where people with physical, mental, or social challenges thrived. Larry found his prayer time with them especially rewarding. He believed there was “something sacred and powerful about praying with people who often feel unseen or unheard—people who are often dismissed because of their differences.” Who else demonstrated that connection with people when he lived on earth?

Chapter Eleven

- What resonates the most with Larry about Laura, the potential Canines for Christ volunteer?

Chapter Twelve

- This chapter details a grief counseling therapy session with a young girl named Ava. Did anything stand out for you or especially touch your heart? Why was Gracie’s presence so important in this situation?

Chapter Thirteen

- Larry and Gracie head to Trinity school when they learn that Earl, one of the beloved students, has died. The other students have many questions for Larry, and he provides the best response by describing heaven. What do you think of his description? What would you add?

Chapter Fourteen

- We listen in to the conversation between Larry and Fig Newton at the beginning of this chapter. Have you been able to share the gospel with someone and witness that person coming to Christ? Did anything that Larry experienced ring true for you?

Chapter Fifteen

- Were you prepared for what happens in this chapter? How many times has life been going along well for you and then you experience something that turns your world upside-down? What is the first thing you remember doing?
- How did Gracie help Larry? If you have a pet at home, how have they offered comfort to you in difficult times?
- At the end of chapter fifteen, Larry tries breath prayers, using the phrases “When I am afraid / I will trust in you.” Have you ever heard of breath prayers before? Do you think it’s a helpful practice?

Chapter Sixteen

- In chapter sixteen, we learn how Larry and Susan met. Do you have a love story of your own? If not a love story involving a husband or wife, remember the details of your love story with God.
- Laura, the Canine for Christ volunteer who had also experienced a traumatic brain injury, was truly an invaluable resource God sent to Larry and Susan. Her knowledge was firsthand and beneficial. Have you ever had someone in your life whose experience was just what you needed to hear?

Chapter Seventeen

- In this chapter, Larry and Gracie meet a young girl named Charley who has been abused and is in court to testify against her abuser. Gracie’s presence helps Charley be brave. What helps you be brave?
- Even though Larry and Gracie had to step back on the number of visits due to Gracie’s torn ligament, the ministry continued to expand. Larry compared it to Jesus’ miracle of feeding

the five thousand with five loaves and two fishes. Have you seen a “loaves and fish” miracle in your life or been part of one for someone else? Describe what that meant to you.

Chapter Eighteen

- Larry has ankle surgery and temporarily needs to use a wheelchair. That setback becomes a revelation for him when he and Gracie go to the mall together. What is the revelation? And how does it affect Larry and the ministry?
- Willie, one of the regular students at Trinity school, came up with the phrase “dog church.” What made Dog Church different from most other churches?

Chapter Nineteen

- When Larry receives a request from a mother hoping to find a therapy dog for her son, God sets a series of things in motion. What are they?
- In the end, a dog is found and trained and delivered. In her thank-you email, the mother writes, “Thank you, Brother Larry, for allowing God to use you as a sharp tool in his hand.” What did she mean by the phrase “a sharp tool” in God’s hand? Do you consider yourself a sharp tool in God’s hand? What are some characteristics of being one?
- We meet Steve and his dog, Bruce, in this chapter. Why are they perfect for Canines for Christ?

Chapter Twenty

- There is celebration and mourning in this chapter. Did a verse or verses from the Bible come to mind as you read it?
- When Larry and Steve traveled to Orlando with Gracie and Bruce, another aspect of the ministry developed. How was God preparing them for what he had planned for the ministry’s future?

Chapter Twenty-One

- Canines for Christ’s leadership torch is being prepared to be passed on to Jill and Ross Powell. Have you ever been in a situation where the work or ministry you had started was in the same place where Larry’s was? How did you feel about that? How did God provide?