

"THE GOD PLOT"

by  
TIMOTHY M. GREEN

SMALL GROUP FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

*Living with  
Holy Imagination...*

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## **Session Two**

### **Video Segment**

Session 2 (Chapters 1 & 2)

### **Summary**

#### Prophetic Setting and Call:

The context in which a story unfolds is important. We know from experience that people are shaped by their environments; we are, in part, the products of our settings. But forget about geographical location or historical time period; the prophetic voice of the God Plot unfolds within a remarkable setting of grace. When the prophets reference grace, they are talking about God's gracious activity to deliver and provide over and over again for his covenant people (as displayed in the Exodus and onward). Within this location of grace, God issues a call. The call itself is gracious and for our good: *Love me*, he commands, *with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength* (Deuteronomy 6:4-5, paraphrased).

### **Additional Key Thoughts and Ideas**

- Grace is not a theory; it's a flesh-and-blood reality that gets played out in our lives through God's 1) divine deliverance, 2) divine provision, and 3) divine covenant.

- Grace precedes every call of God. God never seeks a response where he has not first graciously acted to make a way for us.
- Covenant-keeping means to trust in God alone for deliverance and provision. In other words, God plus nothing. Seeking alternative means for security leads us away from God.
- In the prophetic call to “love the Lord your God,” the word love is describing not a feeling or sentimental emotion but instead commitment and undivided devotion.
- Ultimately, the setting of grace and full dependence on God is a mystery to be celebrated. It’s what makes us a unique, set-apart community!

### **Opening**

- Have a group member open your time together in prayer.
- Consider the way in which Israel came against the giants in the Promised Land. Ask group members to talk about some giants we face in today’s context.

### **Group Discussion Questions**

- As characters in God’s story, how has God’s grace been a setting for you? How has it shaped you?
- Consider the Israelites’ first response to the manna: “What is it?” Only after tasting the manna did they call it “bread from heaven.” Has there ever been a time when God’s provision looked different from what you expected?
- In the video, we learn that the words *heart*, *soul*, and *strength* were defined differently during biblical times. Did any of these

definitions surprise you or cause you to look at Deuteronomy 6:4-5 with new eyes? Discuss.

- How does love as devotion/commitment look different from love as emotion?
- In what areas of your life are you being asked to trust that God's grace has gone before you to make a way?