

awakening grace

ideas for your local church

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If you're interested in leading *Awakening Grace* in your local church, here are a few ideas and suggestions.

option 1: preaching series

Walk your entire congregation through a fresh emphasis on discipleship and spiritual practices.

Use the individual chapters of the book and DVD sessions as a framework for a multi-week preaching series, digging into a different spiritual practice each week.

Some of the practices we explore are ancient while others are innovative. Choose the five or six practices that will best fit (or most challenge) your local context.

Each chapter is rooted in Scripture, and each practice is fully informed by the truth of God's Word. Be sure to do your own exploration and exegesis of Scripture, obeying the Holy Spirit's guidance for your context.

Each chapter and film session offer discussion questions and practical challenges for response. Use these to call your entire congregation to respond in a specific way to each message.

Incorporate the film sessions (or short clips) into the messages for a creative change of pace.

option 2: church-wide small-group initiative

Challenge all of your church small groups and discipleship classes to walk through the book and film sessions.

Set aside ten weeks and get all of your groups on the same page for a short season. (Note: Plan ahead! Give your teachers and group leaders plenty of time to prepare and process. If they aren't given enough time to get behind the idea, it will negatively affect the fruitfulness of the journey.)

Focus your discipleship efforts in one unified direction, calling your people to grow in grace through these spiritual practices.

This can also be done in conjunction with the preaching series.

option 3: individual small group

Make the *Awakening Grace Group Resource Kit* available as an option for individual small groups.

Identify groups or classes that would respond well to the material.

option 4: spiritual retreat

Use the film sessions as a framework for a spiritual retreat.

Lead a group through the films (or a few selected films) over the course of a condensed time together.

Use the discussion questions to spark conversation and cultivate growth.

Select the DVD sessions that best fit your group and context.

Send the group members home with a book (six in each kit) as a gift for further investment.

option 5: leadership development

Discipleship isn't only for discipleship groups. Invest in the spiritual growth of your leaders. Use the films and questions as a part of leadership development or as devotional material within leadership meetings.

Select a group of leaders that you want to mentor. Lead them through this material as a way of investing in their souls, not only their skills.

option 6: new believer's discipleship

Invest in the spiritual future of new believers by introducing them to the time-tested practices that nurture discipleship.

Cultivate the soil of transformed souls by teaching them what it means and what it takes to follow Jesus. These practices won't change them, but they are means of grace through which the Holy Spirit can change them.

option 7: choose your own adventure

What else can you come up with? How are you using this project in creative ways for your context? We would love to hear your stories!