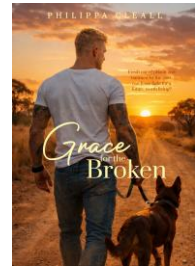


Grace for the Broken – Book Club Discussion Guide



*This general discussion guide is for book clubs, community groups, and readers of all backgrounds. It invites thoughtful conversation around the themes in **Grace for the Broken**. The questions are open-ended and inclusive, encouraging reflection on growing wisdom and discernment, important aspects of healthy relationships and leadership, and restoration after harm.*

Opening Question

- What moment or character stayed with you most after finishing the book?

1: Healing & Identity

Questions:

- What does Hope's "wire tree" reveal about her understanding of herself?
- What can "bent but not broken" look like in real life?
- What role does the art therapy group play in both Hope and Nova's healing?
- Which character in the book seems to be most defined by their past?
- In the story, Jesse is fighting shame. What significant moments help him change his self-perception?
- What does Lily's description of a "prince" reveal about what she has experienced or witnessed?
- Which parts of her "pretend" are actually expressions of deep relational needs?

2: Perception vs Reality

Questions:

- Why was the town so quick to believe Jesse was guilty?
- What made Ethan convincing?
- Why can people misjudge someone based on limited information, mistaking confidence for credibility?

3: Power & Influence

Questions:

- Compare Ethan's influence with Hope's or Tom's. What's the difference? (How do people feel after their interactions?)
- What does the story show about when "concern" becomes control?
- Which person's influence in the story leads someone else to the most growth?
- What stands out to you about how Tom and Eve describe their role as church leaders?
- Why might it be significant that they clearly name their *limits*?
- How can this compare to common perceptions (or experiences) of leadership in churches?
- Why does Hope feel relief when Tom and Eve talk about boundaries?
- What does this suggest about her past experiences?

4: Forgiveness, Trust & Consequences

Questions:

- The scene with Jesse and Sam in the café backyard is subtle but powerful. What shifts in Ruby's perception of Jesse?
- Why is trust often built through small, ordinary moments rather than big gestures?
- Was Ruby's written apology to Jesse enough?
- Should Jesse forgive the town?
- Can you forgive someone and still not trust them?

5: Faith, Grace & Justice

Questions:

- How does Tom describe grace differently from how people usually see it?
- What tension does Jesse feel about justice vs grace?
- Do you agree with Tom's message in his church sermon?
- What characters in the story do you think experienced grace?

6. Intuition vs Prideful Dismissal

Questions:

- Hope distinguishes between fear and discernment. What is the difference?
- Why does Joe struggle to accept her perspective, even though he loves her?
- Have you ever ignored a “quiet concern” because it wasn’t strong enough to prove?
- Joe says he needs to “see it with his own eyes.” Why is this both reasonable and risky?
- How can pride subtly affect our ability to recognise harm?
- Why is Eve’s response so significant in contrast?

7. Courage and Self-Awareness

Questions:

- Jesse chooses to go to the police despite knowing he may not be believed. What does this reveal about his growth?
- Why is Ruby’s realisation (“I’ve never seen a reflection of my mother in myself before”) so confronting?
- Ruby says, “I don’t want a relationship where I have to become less.” Why is this such a pivotal moment?

8. Rebuilding Trust and Accountability

Questions:

- Ethan is introduced as likeable and generous, yet something feels “slightly off.” What were your thoughts of this character building?
- Jesse says, “Most of it’s probably true.” Why is this kind of honesty significant?
- What is the difference between *owning your past* and *being defined by it*?
- How does Craig respond in a way that supports growth without excusing harm?
- What small moments show trust beginning to form around Jesse?
- Why are these moments understated rather than dramatic?

9. Key Turning Points

Questions:

- Which of the following moments do you think changed the direction of the story most?
 - Ruby accusing Jesse
 - Joe's realisation
 - Ruby's conversations with Mia
 - Men watching the video of a survivor
- Reflect on: *"What changed in the character/s at that moment?"*

Final Reflections

- What have you learned from the book about safe relationships?
- Would you recommend *Grace for the Broken* for others to read? Why? Why not?