



The Four Foundations

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Focus The four living creatures in Ezekiel and Revelation have four faces that represent grace, prayer, worship, and servanthood. All four of these foundations need to be represented in the Church and in our lives. Many of us received the foundation of grace when we were born again, but we need to continue to receive God's grace and forgiveness even after being saved.

Fun Play Two Truths and a Lie, a fun get-to-know-you game. Have each person say three statements: two truths and one lie. Have the other members try to guess which statement is the lie.

Review Key Scriptures: Ezekiel 1:4–20; Revelation 4:1–11

1. The Foundations of the Church

The four living creatures are described in the books of Ezekiel and Revelation. Each creature has the faces of a man, an ox, a lion, and an eagle. The eagle represents worship, the lion represents prayer, the man represents grace, and the ox represents servanthood and humility. These are four things that every church must have to be balanced and healthy. Some churches have a tendency to focus on one or two, but all four are necessary.

2. The Four Foundations of Life

In Ezekiel's vision, the spirit in the living creatures was also in the wheels. Wherever the Spirit moved, they moved, and the Spirit would lift them up. In the same way, God wants us to go up. As we grow, we move higher and higher—from glory to glory. All four foundations—grace, prayer, worship, and

servanthood—need to be developed in the Church *and* in our own lives. We may be drawn to one foundation over another, but all are important.

3. The Foundation of Grace

Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of Man. The face of the man on the four living creatures is a representation of Jesus. John 1:17 says, “For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” To be born again, we must receive God’s grace and accept that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Many Christians receive God’s grace at salvation, but God wants us to *always* receive His grace. God’s grace and forgiveness cover your sins before you get saved *and* after you get saved.

Group Dynamics Idea Encourage everyone to participate; however, understand that participation will look different for each person depending on their personality type. Look for ways that each member can meaningfully contribute to the group. During discussion time, be sure to give opportunity for others to speak or discuss. This helps the group engagement level.

Discuss

1. Read Ezekiel 1:4–20. What would have been going through your mind if you were Ezekiel and saw the vision of the four living creatures?
2. The faces represent grace, prayer, worship, and servanthood. Why is it important for all four of these to be in a healthy church? What happens to a church that is strong in only one area but neglects the other areas?
3. Do you have a natural tendency to gravitate toward grace, prayer, worship, or servanthood? Which of these areas do you need to grow in the most?
4. Why is it significant that God takes us higher in each area and will move in one direction at a time? Have you seen this pattern of God developing you in one area and then taking you higher in another?
5. What was it like for you when you first got saved and learned of God’s grace and how He paid for your sins?
6. Is it hard for you to still receive God’s grace and forgiveness when you mess up even after being born again? Why do you think believers sometimes struggle with this?
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- The four living creatures represent grace, prayer, worship, and servanthood.
- All four of these things should be present in the Church and our lives.
- We need to receive God's grace for sins we've committed before *and* after we have been saved.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us a deep revelation of Your kingdom through the four living creatures. Please take us to higher places in our lives and our church in the areas of grace, prayer, worship, and servanthood. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip To avoid interruptions during group time, ask people to turn off or turn down cell phones at the start of the meeting.