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Howard's "Lavish grace: Poured out, poured through, and overflowing" (Book Review)

Noelle Keller

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Howard, K. (2016). *Lavish grace: Poured out, poured through, and overflowing*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope Publishers. 172 pp. \$12.99. ISBN 9781625915030

Lavish Grace is a 9-week women's Bible study in the *New Hope Bible Studies for Women Series*. The author, Kathy Howard, is an author and speaker who has been involved in women's ministry for over 25 years.

If you are like me, the hymn "Amazing Grace" is a favorite. If you are like me, the "wretch" of whom the song refers, you may take what grace is for granted at times and need a reminder. Our need for God's amazing and lavish grace and our need to extend grace to others in our relationships is the theme of this book. I confess that I was excited to take on this book review from the title and topic alone.

There are three parts to the study of grace as reflected in the book's subtitle. "Grace Poured Out" is three chapters focused on God's relationship with us; how His grace is necessary for salvation and for spiritual growth. "Grace Poured Through" speaks to our need to overflow God's grace into our lives and relationships with others. The final three chapters, "Grace Overflowing" delve deeper into what God's grace means in life's difficulties.

Paul's writing and teaching are the scriptural basis for each chapter's study. Each week's lesson is divided into four sections that can be covered in one session or broken into four days study. The "Learning It" component of each weekly lessons centers on how God's grace is exhibited in Paul's life. "Teaching It" is the next aspect of the study delving into what Paul taught on the subject. "Living It" is the put it into practice section for taking the study into daily living. Finally, the "Grace Applied" portions emphasize contemporary examples and stories of women's lives changed by grace to encourage and inspire. All four sections have scriptural passages and questions to be worked out. The text is divided in such a way that there is room to write in answers. There is also a leader's guide in the back of the book.

This topical and character study helped me delve deeper into God's grace. It could be used for group study or as an individual devotional. I would recommend it to others, and I have added her other books to my reading list.

Reviewer

Noelle C. Keller, Adrian College