

LifeGroup Meeting

Grace: both Gotten and Given
"Scandalous Grace"

Get To Know You Question:

How have you felt God's grace the most?

Let's Dig Deeper

- 1. Someone read Mark 2:13-17.**
 - In your own words, define what Grace means?
 - Why is grace that makes Jesus unique from all the other gods in the world?
 - Why was the implication of His grace that caused so many people to miss Christ altogether?
 - Why did this Grace make Jesus so unpopular in His culture, especially with the religious leaders of His day?
- 2. In Ancient Israel, Jesus was hated because he was perceived to not be religious enough. He was not holy enough. If Jesus came today, in our culture, he would be just as hated, but this time he would be hated for being too religious; too holy. Why?**
- 3. Jesus came not to call the righteous, but sinners (Mark 2:17). This means that the only people who can get to heaven, who can have salvation, are those who are self-defined as sinners. The reason why this is so scandalous is because Jesus seems to justify the ungodly. Explain what this means.**
- 4. In **Mark 2**, the first part of this chapter Jesus heals a paralytic and the second part, Jesus hangs with a tax collector. The first part was to say that Jesus has authority to forgive sins, and the second part shows us whose sins he will forgive.**
 - Why is this such a hard message to sell to people who are steeped in works-based religions?
 - The Christian message is that Christ came, not for the good people, but for the bad. Not for those who think they have it all together,

but for those who don't. Why then do we try so hard to let people think we have it all together?

5. Do you see any parallels between the Pharisees who were outraged at Jesus for loving on sinners and bad people, and how Christians are today?
 - Jesus took great pride in giving sinners what others thought they didn't deserve. Why do we seem to struggle with this in our own lives?
 - So often we cannot imagine that Jesus would be interested in me until I can kind of dust myself off and be a better, holier, and more devoted to Christ, type of person. Why do you think we do this all the time? Why is this so damaging?
6. One of the most remarkable things about Jesus is that he recruited everyday people to change history. It was somehow commonsense to Jesus that normal people would be more apt to reach normal people. What are your thoughts on this?
7. Jesus is the kind of God who loved to throw his pearls of GRACE to the people others thought neither deserved it, or knew what to do with it. Is there anyone in your life right now, that you need to pour the Grace of God on?
8. The greatest paradox of Jesus is that the greatest recipients of His grace are from people who knew they needed it the most but thought they deserved it the least. And it was the religious elite who thought they deserved it, and yet, they were the ones who never received it. Why is this a paradox?
9. Go around in your group and each one, in one sentence, explain why you think Jesus' grace is scandalous?

10. Pray!