

Basic Misunderstandings

Grace Dispensers (Wk.3)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Grace is God paying the price we could never pay in order to give us the gift we could never earn.

Key Scriptures

God made Him who had no sin to be a sin offering for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. Ephesians 1:7

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:18

Grace Problems

1. We struggle to understand grace because we are confused about the impact of our sin.

When we understand the cost of our sin, God's grace truly becomes amazing.

2. Christians are perceived as guilt givers rather than grace dispensers.

It is grace that makes the gospel good. If we miss grace, we miss the gospel.

Start talking.

- What situations/environments do you consistently see a lack of grace?
- How does culture connect grace and tolerance?
- What does tolerance ask us to do?

Start thinking.

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. Why did Jesus need to be a "sin offering for us"?
- What does grace assume, that tolerance ignores?
- How does misunderstanding our sin, result in confusion about grace?
- Read Ephesians 1:7. How did "His blood" result in, "the forgiveness of sins"?
- Does grace require action? Explain.

Start sharing.

- Read 1 John 3:18. How have others shown you love through action?
- Consider this quote, "I don't care how much you know, until I know how much you care." How have Christians and/or you misrepresented God's grace? How have we become known as guilt givers rather than grace dispensers?
- Why does grace make the Gospel good for you?

Start doing.

- Be a grace dispenser this week. Who is that person, that is the most difficult to love? Lean in with grace toward them.
- Who do you need to ask forgiveness from for a past lack of grace? Connect with that person this week and apologize.

Closing prayer.

Jesus, I confess I have often offered judgment rather than grace, accusations rather than mercy to others. Forgive me and help me to love others as you do. Help me to be a dispenser of grace to a grace starved culture. Reveal to me the tangible ways I can demonstrate the good news of your Gospel through "actions and in truth."