

Running from the Grip of Grace

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Scripture:

Below

Group Session

Opening Questions

Define grace. (something unmerited)

Share a time that someone has shown you the most grace?

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. Read Psamm 145:9. What does it teach us about grace?
This is common grace—applying to all created.
2. Another type of grace is saving grace. Read Ephesians 2:8. What does this teach us about grace?
3. Encounter #1 is with the Rich Young Ruler. Read the passage below. Discuss ways he didn't understand the source of grace.

Mark 10:17-22

¹⁷As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'^[d]"

²⁰"Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

²¹Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²²At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

4. Encounter #2 is with Judas Iscariot. Read the passage below. Discuss ways he didn't understand the presence of grace.

John 12:1-6

¹Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ²Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³Then Mary took about a pint^[a] of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵"Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.^[b]" ⁶He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

5. Encounter #3 is with the thief on the cross. Read the passage below. Discuss ways he didn't understand the fullness of Grace.

Like 23: 39-41

³⁹One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

⁴⁰But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

6. Walking in grace involves three things:
- Humbly accepting it, yet knowing we are undeserving.
 - Acknowledging who we are in Christ.
 - Believing God's grace can affect our lives.

Which of these is the biggest challenge to you.

Closing Challenge

How can we walk in grace? What can we do to experience it to the fullest?