

habits of grace

LISTEN. SPEAK. BELONG.

WEEK 1 : GRACE GONE WILD (EPHESIANS 2:1-10)

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved..."
- Ephesians 2:4-5

QUOTE

"The final joy in any truly Christian discipline or practice or rhythm of life is, in the words of the apostle, "the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (Phil 3:8). "This is eternal life," and this is the goal of the means of grace: "that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3)." - Habits of Grace

WHAT IS GRACE?

"Grace is the free and sovereign work of God to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves, even though we don't deserve it." - Habits of Grace

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What do we learn about - what we were (vs. 1-3)? who we are (4-8)? how we got there (9-10)?

2. What is grace? Why is it essential to the Christian message and to following/enjoying Jesus?

"TAPPING INTO THE GRACE OF GOD IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES. THOUGH WE CAN'T MAKE THE FAVOR OF GOD FLOW, WE CAN POSITION OURSELVES TO RECEIVE THE FAVOR HE HAS PROMISED."

GETTING IN THE WAY OF GRACE

"It is in this endless sea of his grace that we walk the path of the Christian life and take steps of grace - empowered effort and initiative. It works something like this - I can flip a switch, but I don't provide the electricity. I can turn on a faucet, but I don't make the water flow. There will be no light and no liquid refreshment without someone else providing it. And so it is for the Christian with the ongoing grace of God. His grace is essential for our spiritual lives, but we don't control the supply. We can't make the favor of God flow, but he has given us circuits to connect and pipes to open expectantly.

There are paths along which he has promised his favor." - Habits of Grace

3. Read Luke 19:1-10. What do we learn from Zacchaeus about encountering Jesus and receiving his grace? What do we learn about Jesus and his grace? What is the result?

4. Discuss how you have encountered Jesus and experienced his grace - both in the past and currently.

HOW YOU CAN GROW IN GRACE: LISTEN, SPEAK, BELONG

We cannot earn God's grace or make it flow apart from his free gift. But we can position ourselves to go on getting as he keeps on giving. We can "fight to walk in the paths where he has promised his blessings." We can ready ourselves to remain receivers along his regular routes, sometimes called the "spiritual disciplines" or even better, "the means of grace." Such practices need not be fancy or highfalutin. They are the stuff of everyday, basic Christianity—unimpressively mundane, but spectacularly potent by the Spirit. While there's no final and complete list of such practices, they long tally of helpful habits can be clustered underneath three main principles: hearing God's voice, having his ear, and belonging to his body. Or simply, word, prayer and fellowship." - Habits of Grace

5. Read Acts 2:42. What are the people devoted too? What do being devoted to these ordinary means of grace result in (43-47)?

6. What questions do you have about these "habits of grace"? What are some concrete steps you can take to help cultivate them in your current season of life?

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