



Discussion Guide | Week 4: Extraordinary Grace | March 6, 2022

INTRO VIDEO Start off your group by clicking the link below to watch session #3 of the series “The Book of Ephesians” by J.D. Greear on RightNow Media.

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/195647?session=202596>

OVERVIEW When you became a follower of Jesus, he gave you a crown. In Ephesians 2, Paul says it this way: “God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms.” This crown allows each of us to approach God confidently and securely, and in doing so, to walk with and receive from God in a way that others cannot.

KEY VERSES Ephesians 2:1-10 (NIV84); Luke 7:39-43,47 (NIV84)

REMEMBER Pastor Brad shared a game of checkers analogy, noting that not every checker will make it across the board. Though all pieces were made to function as royalty, the obstacles & hardship of the game will prevent some from ever doing so. In the same way, not every follower of Jesus will learn to trust Jesus & live as royalty like he created us to do. That can be a hard to stomach! So when Brad shared this analogy, what came to your mind? Share.

REFLECT Early in the video, J.D. Greear talked about two deeply-ingrained myths our culture believes about evil:

1. The main problem in the world is other people.
2. Deep down, we’re really not that bad.

In what ways does our culture emphasize these ideas J.D. mentioned? Do you know people who hold those beliefs? Share.

RESPOND Have someone read Ephesians 2:4-7 where Paul writes that God has shown us both mercy and grace. Mercy is associated with help, while grace is always associated with giving. Mercy is God *not* giving us the punishment we deserve, and grace is God giving us the blessings we *don’t* deserve. As you think about your own journey following Jesus the past few months, does God’s mercy or grace most resonate with you? Why is that? Explain.

REAL LIFE Now read Ephesians 2:8-10. One of the effects of our salvation is that God uses us to do good works that he prepared in advance for us to do. This often means being ready to share the good news of Jesus with others. So think of someone you know who’s trying hard to earn God’s grace. What can you say to them this week—in a gentle, loving way—to present the truth of Ephesians 2:1-10 to him or her? Share.

PRAYER TIME As you close in prayer, take requests & also pray in these ways below:

1. Pray for the women who chose to follow Jesus during this weekend’s IF:Shelbyville event, that they would get connected with a local church & begin to grow in their faith.
2. Pray for folks who just became members of SCC as they continue to grow in their faith & offer their time, talents, and treasures to build up our church & to make disciples who bring hope & healing to our community.