



Amazing Grace | Shawn Johnson | 5.31.20
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What's your number one tip for combating distractions when working from home?

SHARE

Welcome to Week One of Grace and Peace. As we continue to learn how to be the church in the middle of this pandemic, take a few minutes to check in with your Group. Our circumstances may not be ideal, but that doesn't mean we stop living life in community. Before we go any further, take some time to talk with your Group by having everyone answer these questions:

Give your week a letter grade (B-, A+, etc.) Why did you pick that grade?

What is one challenge you are facing this coming week? What do you think God is trying to teach you in the middle of it?

What was the most exciting or fun thing that happened this week?

GROW

The Apostle Paul is one of the most influential figures in the Bible. He wrote 13 letters to the churches he planted, which make up a significant chunk of the New Testament. As Shawn pointed out this week, Paul began all 13 of them with the same greeting, "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:2). Although Paul wrote

these letters 2,000 years ago, they are just as relevant as ever. In these days, we need grace and peace more than ever.

Grace is the starting point for Paul. To help us understand why grace was such a big deal to Paul, let's take this week to walk through a few passages in his letter to the church in Rome.

Read Romans 3:20-24

What do you know about the book of Romans? Why is Romans 3 such an important chapter?

Do you agree with Romans 3:23? Have you ever “sinned and come short of the glory of God”?

If you've ever felt like you don't belong in the church or aren't qualified to be used by God, don't worry, you are in good company with everyone else. In the passage you just read, Paul reminds his friends that ALL have fallen short of God's glory. That's why at Red Rocks Church, we proudly declare we are just a bunch of imperfect people pursuing a perfect God. No matter how good or bad you think you are, we are all in the same boat, each one of us has turned our back on God at some point in our life.

Paul is no exception. In fact, his past was really ugly. Before he was an Apostle, writer, and church planter extraordinaire, he was a persecutor of the church. He was doing everything he could (including murder) to stomp out the Jesus movement. It's no wonder he writes this in his first letter to his disciple Timothy:

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. - 1 Timothy 1:15

There is a reason Paul always begins with grace. It wasn't just for our sake; it was also for himself. He was well aware that he would've never had the chance to do all the amazing things he did without God's grace. Without grace, none of us would be able to move forward. So like Paul, we can start each day by acknowledging we need forgiveness.

Do you think Paul ever second-guessed his calling because of his past mistakes?

Do you ever second-guess your calling because of past mistakes?

What is the most challenging part of accepting God's grace?

M O V E

Read Romans 6:19-23

Romans 6 is a powerful chapter. What was your biggest takeaway from this passage?

As Shawn reminded us this week, while every other religion tells us we have to work for God's love, Christianity tells a much different story. The Bible tells the story of God doing all the work for us by sending his Son to die for our sins (John 3:16). We've all fallen short of the glory of God, and "the wages of sin is death," but fortunately, "the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

This is fantastic news because God's grace means it isn't about you. You may feel like you aren't good enough, strong enough, smart enough, or courageous enough to be used by God, but that is a lie. The truth is, no matter what your past looks like, God's grace is sufficient for you! Your job this week is to simply accept that truth.

Receive God's grace today, whether it's for the very first time or the 10,000th time. God's grace is just as real for you today as it was when you started following Jesus. Since we tend to forget how beautiful God's grace is over time, let's spend this week reminding ourselves of this glorious truth: *you are chosen, loved, accepted, and a child of God because God's grace is for you!*

What does the phrase "God's grace" mean to you?

Do you believe that God's grace is sufficient for you?

Do you ever struggle to let go of past mistakes?

Take-Home Assignment: Accept the Gift of Grace

Although it can be difficult to accept God's grace, it is true! Ephesians 2:8 tells us everything we need to know.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

When it comes to studying Scripture, quality is often much more important than quantity. So, let's practice accepting God's grace a little more this week, by spending the entire week focusing on this single verse. Take five minutes every morning to meditate on Ephesians 2:8 by following these three steps.

1. Write it: Write the verse out longhand.
2. Memorize it: Take two minutes to commit it to memory.
3. Declare it: Speak it out loud and declare it over your life!

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate calls to share more freely.

T O G O

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Ephesians 2:8