GRACE FOR BEGINNERS

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STUDENT WORKBOOK

BIDIETAIK^{TV}





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Grace for Beginners

Mike Mazzalongo

This 6-part series explores the meaning and value of God's grace expressed in Jesus' cross as well as some common misconceptions concerning this blessing.



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Lesson #1 - What's so Good About the Good News?

This lesson will examine the mistaken ideas that many have concerning the concept of grace as well as the core reason why the "Good News" is truly good.

	John Newton
Gra	ce is "Amazing"
	CHARIS
	- John 1:17
	The essential meaning of grace
	- Ephesians 2:8-9

The Danger of Grace

	1. Some do not
	2. Some prefer
	3. Some fear
he E	ssential Teaching
	- Acts 2:37-42
	Question : What doctrine was Luke referring to that the Apostles taught? Answer :
	Question : What, exactly, would they be teaching to these people? Answer :
	- John 3:16

Grace is free

- Romans 6	:23	
- Pomans /	.4.5	
	:4-5	
wa daaa bi		
ere does n	Iman responsibility fit in?	
	Iman responsibility fit in?	
	Iman responsibility fit in?	
- Romans 2		
- Romans 2	:4	
- Romans 2	:4	

Summary

Discussion Questions

1. How do you define grace and what is another word you might use instead?

2. Where do we first read about God's grace in scripture?

3. What makes grace so amazing?

4. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. How does this explain the relationship between grace and faith?

5. Explain God's grace in the following examples from scripture and what they mean to us.

Genesis 3 – Adam and Eve's sin

II Samuel 11 - David's sin with Bathsheba and Uriah

Luke 22:54-62 - Peter's denial of Jesus

6. How can a misunderstanding of grace be dangerous?

7. What makes grace a difficult concept to grasp?

8. Explain how grace is free but compels action on our part.

9. Read I John 1:5-9. Based on this passage state your understanding of the difference between the effects of the principle of Law and the principle of Grace and give an example.

10. Read the Parable of the Prodigal Son from Luke 15:11-32 and answer the following questions.

What action did the younger son take that shows his rejection of the father?

At what point did the father's grace become evident in this parable?

How did the father in this parable demonstrate forgiveness?

Read verse 32. What in this statement shows why God grants us grace?

11. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

Lesson #2 – The True Plan of Salvation

This lesson explores the common misunderstandings of how grace and faith work in the salvation of one's soul.

Misconceptions about Faith

A. God provides the grace, we provide the faith.

There are two problems with this thinking;

B. Grace is the revelation of the "plan of salvation."

The good news motivates one of two responses:

 1.

 2.

1.

2._____

C. God's grace is based on our faith.

The power that saves us is Jesus Christ!

Grace and Faith +

The elements of our salvation are God's grace and our faith but the Bible qualifies that these are not alone: _____

A. Only by grace but _____

B. Only by faith but _____

Those who have a problem with grace:

1. Simon the Pharisee – Luke 7:36-50 2. Jonah 3. The hired workers - Matthew 20 4. The Pharisee and the Publican – Luke 18 Summary

Discussion Questions

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and answer the following questions.

What does Paul mean in the first three verses?

How does God make us alive? (Verses 4-7)

What is your reaction to verse 7?

2. Why is it sometimes difficult to accept the gift of love and mercy from God?

3. What can we possibly give in exchange for our salvation that God would consider worthy?

4. Why is the "Plan of Salvation" (Hear, believe, confess, repent, baptize) not a valid formula to achieve salvation?

5. What is the ultimate choice we make regarding God's grace and what our actions represent?

6. What is meant by the phrase "faith in faith"?

7. Comment on the following statements:

"We are saved by grace but not grace alone." _____

"We are saved by faith but not by faith alone." ______

8. What is the danger of trying to earn God's grace?

9. How is God's grace demonstrated in Luke 7:36-50 – Simon the Pharisee?

10. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

Lesson #3 - God's Most Precious Gift

This lesson describes the actual benefits in one's life produced by God's grace.

1. We do what we do by the power of grace _____ 2. Grace existed in the Old Testament _____ Grace as a Gift 1. The "gift" of the Holy Spirit - Romans 8:11 _____ 2. The "gifts" that God gives to the church - Ephesians 4:8-12

3. The Spiritual "gifts" the Holy Spirit gives to individuals in the church – Romans 12; I Corinthians 12

4. The "gift" of grace - Ephesians 2:7 _____

The Value of this Gift

- II Corinthians 9:15 _____

The Expression of Grace

- James 2:18 _____

- Ephesians 2:7 _____

What the Gift Gives us

1. Grace produces our salvation

	- Genesis 2:17
	- Romans 7:15
2. Grace pro	duces righteousness
	Different Kinds of Righteousness
	1
	2
	3
3. Grace pro	duces life
	- John 15:3-4

Falling from Grace – Losing this Precious Gift

Extromon	ositions on losing gracou
	ositions on losing grace: m
1. Guivinis	····
2. Pessimi	sm
Th	
The main o	error of Pessimists:
A. The idea	a of falling from grace
	- Galatians 5:2-6
, .,	_
B. The idea	a that we create grace
	- Philippians 2:12-13
C. The idea	a that assurance leads to arrogance
	- Romans 6:1-2
	- II Timothy 4.7-8
	- II Timothy 4:7-8

Discussion Questions

1. Summarize what you know about the power of grace and how that makes you feel.

2. Cite some examples of God's grace from the Old Testament.

3. Summarize the four main gifts described in the text and state the importance of each:

The	gifts	of the	Holv	Spirit
IIIC	gnus	or the	TIOLY	spine.

The gift that God gives to the church _____

The spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit gives to individuals in the church (Romans 12; I Corinthians 12)

The gift of grace _____

4. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. List the gifts God has blessed us with.

5. Share a time when you've received a gift that left you breathless with joy and appreciation. How does this compare with the gift of grace?

6. How is grace expressed in our lives?

7. What does the gift of grace give us?

8. Provide an explanation of the following gifts given by grace:

Our salvation		
Produces righteousness		
<u> </u>		
Produces life		

9. What is meant by falling from grace and what is the tragedy of it happening?

10. How can we keep from falling from grace?

11. Read Romans 6:1-11. How does Paul explain the idea that we should no longer sin deliberately?

12. How does this lesson help you and others build a greater relationship with Jesus and grow spiritually?

Lesson #4 - No Grace - No Gospel

This lesson examines other mistaken images used to explain the concept of grace and reviews the stories of King David and Paul the Apostle to demonstrate how God's grace actually worked in producing their forgiveness.

Wha	at Grace is Not		
1. Gra	race is not a	 	
	- I John 1:5-7	 	
	- I John 1:8-10		
	-		
2. Gra	race is not a	 	
	- I Corinthians 1:30		
	- I Peter 2:24		

3. Grace is no	t a
- Rom	ans 6:1-2
- I Pet	er 1:14-16
What is Gr	ace?
A. Old	Testament
B. Nev	v Testament
Defini	tion:
	- Romans 3:21-24

Examples of Grace in Action

1. David and Bathsheba – II Samuel 11:1-ff ______

2. Paul the Apostle – I Corinthians 15:9-10 _____

Summary

- Colossians 2:13-14 _____

Discussion Questions

1. Sometimes it helps to understand what something is by looking at what it is not. Summarize each mistaken view listed below and why it is incorrect:

Grace is not a dividing line.
Grace is not a thermometer
Grace is not a free ticket

2. Compare the use of the word grace from the Old Testament to that of the New Testament.

3. Use your own words to define grace and what it means to you.

4. Explain the expression of God's grace in the following situations form scripture:

David and Bathsheba – II Samuel 11

5. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

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Lesson #5 - My Grace is Sufficient

Paul describes how God's grace empowered him to deal successfully with the thorns in his life.

Dealing with disappointment _____

Background on Paul the Apostle

- II Corinthians 12:1-14 _____

- II Corinthians 12:7 _____

Responses to Disappointment

("Thorns"
-	
_	
_	
~~~	er – II Corinthians 12:8
1 Y	
	It is okay to aggressively seek to remove the things that reduce our joy, our satisfaction
	It is okay to aggressively seek to remove the things that reduce our joy, our satisfaction life, as well as our peace and happiness.
	It is okay to aggressively seek to remove the things that reduce our joy, our satisfaction life, as well as our peace and happiness.

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#### 3. Rise Above - II Corinthians 12:10

#### **Summary**

1. His grace is still sufficient to ______

2. His grace is still sufficient to ______

3. His grace is still sufficient to ______

Do you have God's grace working in your life?

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Discuss how your understanding of God's grace has changed from your previous understanding.

2. Describe a time when everything seemed to be going well in your life but there was a hesitation or foreboding of something about to happen that would cause problems.What causes us to feel this way?

3. What was the impact of Paul's "thorn in the flesh" as he states in in II Corinthians 12?

4. Paul's prayer in II Corinthians 12:8 and his request for prayer in Ephesians 6:18-20 and what does it teach us?

5. What was Paul's reaction to God's answer to his prayer for relief and what can we learn from this?

6. Explain the paradox that the weaker we are the stronger Christ becomes, and how this relates to grace.

7. How does this lesson help you and others come to a greater relationship with Jesus and to grow spiritually?

# Lesson #6 - The Impact of Grace

The final lesson in the Grace for Beginners series examines the very real changes that the grace of God produces in our everyday lives.

#### Three ways that the impact of God's grace changes our lives:

#### **1**. Grace makes us eager to obey

- Matthew 5:6 _____

- I John 3:6 _____

This desire is the result of God's grace and because of it our character, our actions and the directions in our lives are changed forever.

#### 2. Grace makes us work hard

-	I Corinthians 15:9-10
_	
	II Corinthians 11:23-28
—	
_	
E	xperiencing the power of God's grace
_	
_	
Μ	lotivation
_	
_ _	

#### 3. Grace makes us thankful

_

- The Most Precious Gif	t			
- By Grace we:				
- Titus 2:11-12				
Hebrews 12:28				

#### Summary

1. Grace has impacted your life if doing what the Lord wants you to do is continually growing in importance in your life.

2. Grace has impacted your life if more of your time and resources have been devoted to the Lord this year than last year.

3. Grace has impacted your life if much of your prayer life and much of the motivation for what you do is based on gratitude.

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Look back at a significant event in your life. How do you see God's grace working in that event?

2. What are some scriptures that promise God's involvement in our lives?

3. How does God's grace make us eager to obey?

4. Explain the paradox that we do not have to work for our salvation, but grace moves us to work even harder for the Lord.

5. Explain how grace makes us thankful.

6. How can you use this lesson to grow spiritually and help others come into a relationship with Jesus?

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