****

**Introduction**

One of the greatest yet hardest concepts to grasp in all of Christian faith is the concept of grace. Paul reminds the Ephesians repeatedly that God’s grace has saved them-not anything they have done. Yet we still gravitate back to feeling the need to earn it. How do we embrace grace and still pursue righteousness?

**Discussion Questions**

1. Can you tell us about a time where it felt like an authority figure let you off the hook? How did it affect the way you felt about that person?
2. Read Romans 3:23-24 Why does Paul remind us that everyone has sinned? Is there a sliding scale in which God judges sin where people who sin the most are considered the worst? How do sinful people become ok with God?
3. Read Ephesians 2:1-9 Why do you think he reminds the readers multiple times that it is by grace they are saved? Why is grace such a difficult concept to embrace??
4. Read Ephesians 3:1-2 What is the administration of grace that Paul is referring to? Is there anything that you can think of that God has allowed you to do that you should see as a gift?
5. Who do or what circumstances do you find it difficult to extend grace? If God has freely given you grace-why is it difficult to do the same for others? Is it more difficult to give grace to other believers or non-believers or does it matter?
6. Phillip Yancey coined a phrase – “the scandal of grace” to refer to God’s forgiveness of who we might consider really bad people? Is there a part of God’s grace that seems scandalous?
7. What’s the difference between giving grace and excusing sin? What is our responsibility to each other?

**Shaping Your Mind –***But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.**Ephesians 2:4-5 NIV*