

# Grace Changes Everything

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## Watch before you begin

Scan to watch the Lesson 5 teaching video — a 12-minute companion to this lesson.

### BIG IDEA

Grace is not permission to drift — it is power to change.

### CORE SCRIPTURES

*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you previously walked... But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!*

— **Ephesians 2:1, 4–5**

*For the grace of God has appeared, with salvation for all people, instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age.*

— **Titus 2:11–12**

### KEY CONCEPTS

Fill in the blanks as you read or as your group works through the lesson.

1. Grace is more than God deciding not to be mad. Grace is the gift that \_\_\_\_\_ the person who receives it.
2. You stand on a \_\_\_\_\_ God put there — not on a tightrope you're trying not to fall off.
3. Grace is not only the ground you stand on; it is also the \_\_\_\_\_ that is moving you.
4. Grace doesn't hand you a different rulebook; it gives you a different \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Transformation in the Christian life happens one \_\_\_\_\_ at a time, not in a single floodlight.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Work through these questions as a group. There are no wrong answers here — only honest ones.*

### **OPENING** — LOW STAKES

1. When you've heard the word “grace” before this lesson, what picture did it usually bring up? Where do you think that picture came from?
2. Have you been carrying a version of the Christian life where God did his part and now the rest is on you? Where does that show up — in how you pray, read, or try to obey?

### **CORE** — HEART OF THE LESSON

3. Paul opens Ephesians 2 with “you were dead.” How does that change what “grace” means in your hearing — versus the way you'd normally use the word?
4. Titus 2:11–12 says grace is instructing you. If grace is both the rescuer and the teacher, what does that mean for the part of the Christian life that has felt most like white-knuckling?
5. When Paul anticipates the question “Can I just coast on grace?”, his answer isn't “God will be angry.” It's “How can we who died to sin still live in it?” Why is that a different kind of answer than what you might have expected?

### **DEEPER** — FOR COURAGEOUS GROUPS

6. What part of you still believes — in practice, not in theory — that you're contributing something to your standing with God? Where does that show up?
7. Have you been measuring your spiritual progress on a “fireworks” scale — looking for a dramatic before-and-after — instead of a “one degree” scale? What would change if you used the smaller measurement?

## JOURNALING

*Set aside 15–20 minutes with these prompts. Write honestly — no one grades these.*

**1** Write about a time you've been disappointed in how slowly your Christian life seems to be changing. What were you expecting? What have you actually seen? What did you decide your slow pace meant about you?

**2** Make a list of three areas where you've been operating mostly on willpower — places where you've been trying to manage yourself into change. Then write what it would look like, in each one, to ask the Spirit to do the work instead.

**3** Slowly re-read Philippians 1:6 — I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. What does it mean, for you specifically, that he is the one carrying this on? Write what you would believe about your spiritual progress if you took that promise as completely true.

### THIS WEEK

This week, practice noticing. Once a day, write down one small thing that might be the engine running — a flash of anger that didn't take down your afternoon, a forgiveness that arrived earlier than you expected, a sin that grabbed less hard than usual. Don't manufacture them. Don't try harder to make them happen. Just notice them when they show up. If a day passes and you don't have anything to write, leave it blank. The engine is still running.

*Core Scriptures: Ephesians 2:1, 4–5 • Titus 2:11–12*

### ANSWERS

*Fill in the blanks as you read or as your group works through the lesson.*

- 1. changes**
- 2. floor**
- 3. engine**
- 4. ruler**
- 5. degree**

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#### **Want to go deeper?**

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