

Which is more difficult for you: accepting God's grace or admitting your need for it?

How many times did Jesus ask Peter, "Do you love me?" Why three times?

What three things did Jesus ask Peter to do? How does this show grace to Peter? What would Peter have missed out if he couldn't accept the grace Jesus offered?

How has grace freed and empowered you to live the full life Jesus offers?

#### REFLECT

Rob shared Tim Keller's quote, "Here's the gospel: you're more sinful than you ever dared believe; you're more loved than you ever dared hope." Why is it important to keep these two truths of the gospel often in mind?

#### RESPOND

Share a specific and personal way Jesus has shown you grace. Focus your prayer time on celebrating the grace He has shown you. Close by reciting the Grace: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all.



**OUTLOOK**  
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John Newton, 1779      AMAZING GRACE

A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Amazing Grace" by John Newton. It is written in 3/4 time and features a treble and bass clef. The lyrics are: "A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!"

### 1 Timothy 1:12-17 (page 814)

## Jesus gives grace generously...

<sup>14</sup> The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Philip Yancey

There is a simple cure for people who doubt God's love and question God's grace: to turn to the Bible and examine the kind of people God loves...The Bible tells of... a missionary being recruited from the ranks of the Christian-torturers...If God can love that kind of person, maybe, just maybe, he can love the likes of me.

<sup>13</sup> Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man... Read about it in Acts 8:1-3 Acts 9:1-6 Acts 22:4 Acts 26:10-11

How Sweet the Sound: The Undeserved Extravagance of Grace

Rob McCord

4.11.2010

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to undeserving people like us...

<sup>15</sup> Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

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Dallas Willard in Renovation of the Heart  
The greatest saints are not those who need less grace, but those who consume the most grace, who indeed are most in need of grace—those who are saturated by grace in every dimension of their being. Grace to them is like breath.

Ephesians 3:8

**Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ...**

so that others may know Him.

<sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in Him and receive eternal life.

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Tim Keller  
Here's the gospel: you're more sinful than you ever dared believe; you're more loved than you ever dared hope.

The epitaph on John Newton's gravestone says:

JOHN NEWTON, Clerk [preacher]  
Once an infidel and libertine  
A servant of slaves in Africa,  
Was, by the rich mercy  
of our Lord and Saviour

JESUS CHRIST,  
restored, pardoned and  
appointed to preach  
the Gospel which he had  
long laboured to destroy.

# An Unfaithful Follower Gets Grace

LIFE GROUP STUDY

RELATE

People say, "If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is." When have you experienced something unbelievably or undeservedly good?

Name someone living today that you see as an enemy and persecutor of Christians, like Saul. If that person were converted, how difficult would you find that to accept?

What principle, insight, or quote from the sermon was most meaningful to you?

READ

John 13:36-38; 18:15-17, 25-27; 21:15-19

After his resurrection, Jesus shows grace to Peter who is uncertain of his standing after denying the Lord.

Why did Jesus tell Peter beforehand that he would deny him three times? Did Peter see his own vulnerability in this area? (13:36-38)

Have you lived up to the promises that you have made to the Lord? What does it mean to you that Jesus knows ahead of time the sin and disloyalty you will commit?

How many times did Peter deny he knew the Lord? (18:15-17 and 25-27) Are there any indications that Peter felt remorse and wanted to be reconciled with Jesus?