

God's Grace

Legacy of Grace Pastor Marcus Mar 5, 2017

THIS WEEK: Each site had its campus pastors preach. At Pt Loma, Pastor Marcus gave a message about grace using the story of Joseph from the Book of Genesis. Joseph experienced unimaginable family dysfunction and personal trials. But Joseph remained faithful and obedient. Pastor Marcus spoke about the recent rains and how lush and green it made all of San Diego; and compared the rain to God's grace falling down all over us.

There were 3 main points to the message:

1. God's grace is glorious.
2. God's grace is greater than your sin.
3. God's grace is free.

Opening Discussion - Opening Questions:

1. What is the difference between mercy and grace?
2. What are some of the reasons it is hard to accept grace?

Pastor Marcus shared an incident as a teen involving water balloons. He and his friends were caught, and young Marcus thought he was going to get into a huge amount of trouble, BUT they all were shown a huge amount of grace.

3. In the middle of the water balloon event, Marcus said to himself, "I probably shouldn't be doing this..."

Would anyone like to share an event from their past in which they too thought "I shouldn't be doing this." and then were given a huge amount of grace? If the roles between you and the one giving grace were reversed, would you have been able to extend grace?

4. One way of describing grace is like having a "reset" button. List as many incidents as you can in the Bible when God gave a "reset" after there was sin and disobedience.

Video clip - preparing for a blessing (2 minutes) from the movie Facing the Giants.

Set up: Coach Taylor is a football coach at a Christian high school who is facing getting fired for too many losing seasons. In addition, he is experiencing financial and personal challenges in his home life. He believes his circumstances are nearly hopeless. He just asked God to show him some kind of sign, and then Mr. Bridges comes into his office.

Mr Bridges is known for praying for the students and staff at the school.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAxwS8KyMQQ>

Have you ever shared a Bible verse with someone? What was that like?
What have you done to prepare for a blessing?
What motivates you to prepare for a blessing verses one who goes thru life nonchalantly?

Read Revelations 3:7-8

What does this mean to you in your life today?

Read Genesis 39:6-20

Joseph tried to do the right thing by not giving in to the advances of Potiphar's wife, and he ended up in prison. Describe a time when you were punished or 'burned' for doing or saying the right thing?

Did you feel that God was with you in that situation?

Did that affect later times when you again were faced with trying to do the right thing?

Group Activity - Role Play

Ask for 2 volunteers to perform a role play. One plays the part of someone who believes their sin is so great, they cannot be forgiven or do not merit grace. The other tries to convince the first that they do merit God's grace. When the members run out of reasons to support their role, ask the audience to add their inputs.

Ask the role players - which was harder; to argue for or against getting grace.

Suggest forming into groups of 2 or 3 for these questions:

Take turns sharing the following questions:

1. What are some of the ways you tried to cover (cover up or hide) your sin?
2. Describe a time when someone gave you a huge amount of grace. Were you surprised to receive it?

Going Deeper - Personal Challenge:

3. Is there someone you have/or are having a hard time showing them grace?
How can we pray for you about this?

Taking it Home - Application:

Volunteer for a Rock outreach

Rock Your City Beautification Event Sat, March 11, 6:30-11:00 AM

<http://www.sdrock.com/events/18496/>

VERSE OF THE WEEK:

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture (Proverbs 3:34) says:

“God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble.” James 4:6

LESSON QUOTES: (from Pastor Marcus)

“In your most dire circumstances, trust God.”

“God is bigger than your issues.”

LIFE GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS:
