



Grace is not just how we start following Jesus; it is how we keep following Jesus. Disciples are always growing in grace, always pursuing a greater experience of God's power and goodness. This series will declare that grace is amazing because it is so deep!

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 The first two lessons in this series reminded us that grace is deeper than our suffering and our wounds. What is one thing you learned about God's grace from those messages and how have you been applying it to your daily walk?

2 This week's message showed us that grace is deeper than our sins. Rick began by reminding us that *we are all sinners in deep need of the mercy and rescue of God. But our perception of our need for grace is often too shallow.* Why is that the case, and what are the consequences in our lives and in our churches when we think others need grace more than we do?

3 RATHER THAN minimize sin Jesus would maximize grace. Grace will never be that good as long as people think they are not that bad. Ironically, Jesus is often used to champion the idea that it is offensive to name sin and confront sinners. **Read Matthew 1:21, 26:28; Luke 13:5, 19:10; and John 8:24.** How do these verses contradict the view that Jesus would "minimize sin"? In what ways does Jesus "maximize grace"?

4 In his book, *The Day the Revolution Began*, N.T. Wright notes that sin is "*not simply the breaking of God's rules. It is the outflowing of idolatry*". In other words, the problem isn't simply human wrongdoing ("sin"); rather, there is a deeper element as well ("sin" is rooted in idolatry — the failure to keep God first in our lives and properly reflect His glory by the way that we live). **Read Romans 3:23.** How

does what N.T. Wright mentions help you better grasp the deeper element of what sin actually is? Why is that distinction important?

5 ONLY GRACE... can wash away sin's penalty. The problem with the "goodness gospel" is that it misdiagnoses the severity of our condition. **Read Ephesians 2:1-5.** What is significant about the fact that Paul says "*you were spiritually dead because of your sins*"? With that in mind, why must God take the initiative to give life and how has that impacted your relationship with Him?

6 ONLY GRACE... can take away sin's power. The message of grace is so good it can cause people to think that sin is not that bad. That's why it's important to go deeper in our understanding of grace. **Read Romans 6:1-14.** How does Christ's death and resurrection tie into our relationship with sin? Share some examples of how God's grace has been deep enough in your life to take away sin's power over you so that you could live in freedom.

7 Rick closed by reminding us that we don't need to turn over a new leaf; we need to ask God for a new life. And that is the powerful confession announced in baptism. **Baptism declares my desire to go deep with grace!** How have you experienced this powerful truth in your life? Have a few people share about their baptism story. What next step do you need to take as a result of this series on grace?

