



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 Rick began by reminding us that in life everyone gets fouled, and sometimes the fouls are flagrant. The important thing is to not allow your foul to become your cell. What are some ways people often respond to being wounded that reflect a shallow understanding of grace? How do those types of responses imprison the one who has been hurt?

2 GRACE IS... better than bitter. While we rarely choose our wounds, we can always choose how we will respond to being wounded. **Read Hebrews 12:15.** What is so dangerous about bitterness? How would you describe the differences between unhealthy and healthy forgiveness?

3 GRACE IS BETTER... because grace erases false labels. Bitter people are quick to justify how they feel and are eager to recount how they got fouled again and again. Their wound becomes their label. Why is that a problem and how does it keep a person from living in freedom?

4 On the other hand, when grace goes deep we are able to find our identity in what Jesus has done for us; not in what someone else did to us. **Read Colossians 3:12-13.** How does grace keep you from being chained to the past even though it doesn't change the past?

5 GRACE IS BETTER... because grace embraces true forgiveness. Resistance to grace

is most evident by insistence to get what you're owed. **Read Matthew 18:21-35.** What is one thing that jumps out to you from this parable?

6 Rick pointed out that *"this parable teaches the dynamic importance of remembering."* God expects a change of heart from those who have received an undeserved change of status. Nothing that's happened to us should go deeper than what Christ has done for us. Jesus is not saying that forgiveness is *"excusing, pretending, forgetting, or reconciling."* He is saying that forgiveness is canceling both the desire to pay back and the need to be paid back. Why is that often so hard to do? What practical steps can you take this week to treat people the way God treats you?

7 Forgiving flagrant fouls is not done in a moment; it is a journey. The enemy will often return and whisper, "You deserve justice." But **GRACE IS... deeper than fair.** In fact, Rick reminded us that *grace is totally unfair, and we would be totally helpless if it wasn't.* And that's why the fellowship of the fouled becomes the fellowship of the forgivers. **Read Ephesians 4:31-32.** Extending grace may not bring the person who hurt you into the kingdom, but it will bring more of the kingdom into you. Are you willing to let grace go that deep? Spend some time in prayer and let this prayer guide you this week, *"Father, in Jesus' name, I speak forgiveness to..."*

