



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 As a follower of Jesus you never reach a place where you don't need grace. We usually define grace as *unmerited favor*. Which is true, but grace is so much deeper than that (it's not just about forgiveness). Dallas Willard defines grace as *God acting in our life to do what we cannot do on our own*. Grace is necessary to start following Jesus, and it is necessary to keep following Jesus. Why is it easier to start your Christian life with grace but often harder to rely on grace as you get further along on the journey?

2 As mentioned above, grace is God's power to do what we cannot do in our own power. In what ways does God's grace supply everything we need (be specific)? What causes us to begin to rely on our own power more than continuing to rely on God's power for daily living? Share some examples of how this has been true in your life.

3 SHALLOW GRACE... produces infantile faith. To become stronger in Christ we must go deeper in our understanding and experience of his grace. **Read 2 Peter 3:18.** What does it mean to "grow in the knowledge of grace" and how does that normally happen in a person's life?

4 GRACE IS DEEPER... Grace strengthens my weakness. Suffering is a given, but it can also be a gift. It is when we hit bottom that we discover the depths of grace. **Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-9.** What good came out of Paul's suffering? What difference

should it make to you knowing that God has promised you an all-sufficient grace?

5 Rick reminded us that God wants us to grow in our capacity to have every part of our lives empowered by Him. And to attain this understanding, God will enroll us in a course called "Suffering." Share an example of how God has used suffering to grow you. How did you experience His grace during your suffering?

6 GRACE IS DEEPER... Grace lengthens my witness. Paul goes on to say, "*So if Christ keeps giving me his power, I will gladly brag about how weak I am. Yes, I am glad to be weak or insulted or mistreated or to have troubles and sufferings, if it is for Christ. Because when I am weak, I am strong.*" (**2 Corinthians 12:9-10 CEV**) Your scars are your story of your encounter with God's grace at the bottom. No one can take away your scars, but you can give away your story. Share an example of how your weakness has been your witness.

7 ALLOW GRACE... to go to the deep places of your life. You will never know God's best as long as you splash around in the shallow water of grace. If God won't remove it (the deep places of pain and suffering), ask Him to redeem it. You can be confident He will. **Read Hebrews 4:14-16.** Where do you need grace the most? Remember, it is deep enough to go there. Spend some time in prayer as you reflect on the responses together.

