

Starter Groups

Who is the Church (Part 2)

Ice Breaker

You are going to live on a deserted island for 2 months. You may bring five items...what are they?

Just for fun... Who at your table can spell Mephibosheth?

Scripture

Ephesians 2:4-9

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Sermon Recap Video

Questions

Video Prompt Main Question 1:

Do you remember a time from your childhood or teenage years when you were caught doing something wrong? How would you describe that feeling?

Follow Up:

Have you ever caught someone else doing something they shouldn't?

Have you ever *wanted* to catch someone in the wrong?

Video Prompt Main Question 2:

The sermon began with the story of the women caught in adultery. Have someone in the group look up John 8:1-11, or read it below.

John 8 New International Version (NIV)

8 1 *but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.*

2 *At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.*

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 *At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"*

11 *"No one, sir," she said.*

"Neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Follow Up:

The Pharisees had caught this woman, but they really wanted to catch Jesus. They were hoping to trip him up. Why do you think they thought they could corner him with this dilemma?

Do you think they cared about the woman?

If we have heard a story before, sometimes we rush past the details. This woman was “caught in the act” of adultery, and dragged before Jesus just after dawn. Knowing they were trying to entrap Jesus, one could guess that the religious leaders knew what this woman would be up to, and waited for an opportunity. Take a moment, and imagine the fear and shame she must have felt, as she was taken from the place where the sin took place, and rushed in front of a crowd?

How do you react when someone exposes sin in your own life?

Did Jesus say her sin was ok?

Video Prompt Main Question 3:

How can this teach us how to respond to sin?

Follow Up:

Jesus showed grace to the women, but what did he also reveal to those holding stones?

Jesus said that the person without any sin should throw the first stone. Everyone dropped their rocks, the oldest first, then the younger ones. Odds are they were not all guilty of the sin of adultery, but they were all convicted of sin. What does this do to our human mindset that some sins are worse than others?

What do you think is the difference between Mercy and Grace?

Video Prompt Main Question 4:

Look at the story in the Old Testament about King David and Mephibosheth.

(2 Samuel 9)

You can read again, or just discuss based on the re-cap

2 Samuel 9 New International Version (NIV)

David and Mephibosheth

9 David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

2 Now there was a servant of Saul's household named Ziba. They summoned him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?"

"At your service," he replied.

3 The king asked, "Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?"

Ziba answered the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is lame in both feet."

4 "Where is he?" the king asked.

Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar."

5 So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.

6 When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor.

David said, "Mephibosheth!"

"At your service," he replied.

7 “Don’t be afraid,” David said to him, “for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.”

8 Mephibosheth bowed down and said, “What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?”

9 Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul’s steward, and said to him, “I have given your master’s grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. 10 You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master’s grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table.” (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)

11 Then Ziba said to the king, “Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do.” So Mephibosheth ate at David’s table like one of the king’s sons.

12 Mephibosheth had a young son named Mika, and all the members of Ziba’s household were servants of Mephibosheth. 13 And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king’s table; he was lame in both feet.

Follow Up:

In the ancient world, the family of a former, displaced King would be destroyed by the new Ruler, to eliminate any claim to the throne. Mephibosheth would have been terrified to come before David. His family line was deserving of death. Instead, David raised him up and treated him as one of his own royal children. How are we like Mephibosheth?

Video Prompt Main Question 5:

Why is it important to remember the phrase “and this is not from yourselves,” from Ephesians 2:8?

Follow up:

Why would someone not want to believe in, or receive grace?

How could thinking about the grace you have received, impact the way you feel toward others in your life?

How is Grace transformational in your families, workplaces, friendship or worldview?

Prayer

Ask your group if there are any updates from last week’s prayer concerns.

Include time in the prayer to thank God for any answers to last week's prayer.

Ask for new prayer concerns.

It is a good idea to write these down, so you can be sure to cover each one. If your group is getting comfortable with each other, you could ask for volunteers to pray for each of the concerns during the prayer time.

Invite you group to take a look at the devotions leading up to next week’s sermon. They are available online on the Foundry website.

