

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Parable (Stories of Grace)

Week of March 2, 2019

Saved by Grace (Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Luke 18:9-14

Our new series is a study of six parables of Jesus that teach us about Grace. Grace is a powerful concept that will transform our lives in the most beautiful ways. The first week of the series is a study of how our salvation is by grace.

Kicking it off: Jeff began his sermon by comparing grace to electricity. He pointed out that both change our lives in many ways. If electricity was stripped from your life, what would you miss the most?

Discussion:

1. Reread *Luke 18:9-10* To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.”

What does it mean to be “confident in one’s own righteousness?”

2. Reread *Luke 18:11* The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: “God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.”

Why do many tend to estimate their level of moral excellence by comparing themselves to others?

3. The Pharisee continued to make a case for his own righteousness in *Luke 18:12* “I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.”

Which religious rituals do people do today in hopes of winning God’s favor?

4. Reread *Luke 18:13-14* But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God.

Jeff claimed that the tax collector’s response is a demonstration of “repentance” and “trust.” Where is repentance and trust seen in these verses?

5. Why does God desire “repentance and trust” instead of “relative morality” and “religious rituals?”
6. Read *Ephesians 2:8-9* (ESV) and compare it to Jesus’ parable in *Luke 18*. “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Wrapping It Up: Pray that the members of your group will clearly and boldly explain to a needy world that reconciliation with God comes through trusting Christ as Lord and Savior.