



Small Group Guide: The Forgotten Jesus

"Law of Grace"

Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when someone showed you unexpected grace. How did it make you want to respond?

Key Takeaways

1. Understanding "Fulfill" vs. "Abolish"

Jesus didn't come to destroy the Old Testament but to complete it and interpret it correctly. The Old Testament is like a pencil sketch; Jesus fills it in with color and brings it to life in high definition.

2. The Three Parts of Grace

Grace in the ancient world had three components:

- Offering - The gift is given freely
- Receiving - The gift is accepted
- Reciprocity - A natural response of gratitude and service

Key Quote: "Grace is always against earning, never against effort." - Dallas Willard

3. Two Dangerous Pitfalls

- Legalism - Adding rules to look better than others; produces bitterness
- License - Using grace as an excuse to ignore God's commands; produces empty faith

4. The Comparison Trap

Pride and conceit require comparison. Never judge someone who sins differently than you do. Your friends want you to succeed—just not more than they do.

5. Accountability vs. Confession

Accountability means: "You hold me responsible for what I tell you I want to do." Healthy relationships require consistent confession and mutual accountability.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Understanding the Text

1. Read Matthew 5:17-20 together. What does it mean that Jesus came to "fulfill" the law rather than abolish it? How does the paint-by-number illustration help you understand this?
2. How does understanding grace as having three parts (offering, receiving, reciprocity) change your view of salvation and Christian living?
3. What's the difference between working *for* salvation and working *from* salvation?

Personal Reflection

4. Are there areas where you've added extra rules to Christianity that aren't in Scripture? What motivates those additions, genuine devotion or comparison with others?
5. Are there areas where you've used grace as an excuse to ignore God's clear commands? What would genuine gratitude to God look like in those areas?
6. Who do you tend to compare yourself to? How does that comparison affect your relationship with God and others?

Going Deeper

7. The podcast mentioned that "never judge someone who sins differently than you do." Why is this so difficult? What sins do you tend to overlook in yourself while judging them harshly in others?
8. Read 2 Corinthians 10:12. Why does Paul say that comparing ourselves to others shows we "lack understanding"? What should we compare ourselves to instead?
9. Discuss this statement: "God will judge your effectiveness based on your faithfulness to the task at hand, not the size of your ministry or success." How does this free you? How does it challenge you?

Practical Application

10. Do you have someone in your life who holds you accountable for what you say you want to do? If not, who could fill that role? What specific areas do you need accountability in?
11. The podcast shared a prayer: "Lord, help me to accept your will for me today." How might praying this each morning change your perspective on comparison and contentment?
12. Think of someone in ministry or life who is "succeeding" in ways you're not. How can you celebrate their success rather than negate it this week?

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for each group member regarding:

- Freedom from comparison and pride
- Wisdom to avoid both legalism and license
- Grateful hearts that respond to grace with obedience
- Courage to pursue accountability relationships
- Eyes to see and celebrate what God is doing in others