

### Lesson 1-7 - Grace

1. List three reasons why you would like to spend eternity with God.

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2. List three reasons why you think God would like to spend eternity with you.

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3. Read Isaiah 61:10 and Isaiah 62:5 and Ephesians 5:25-27. Summarize these scriptures in your own words.

**Isaiah 61:10** I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

**Isaiah 62:5** For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

**Ephesians 5:25-27** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

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4. We see that the union of God and His people is compared to a marriage. The bride is the church which is the community of believers; and the groom is Jesus who is the Word. In order to have a good marriage, what is important? List 5 items.

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5. For marriage, there are the following stages:

- a. introduction
- b. initial reactions
- c. courtship
- d. preparation for marriage
- e. marriage celebration
- f. marriage

6. Those of us on earth are in stages a, b, c, or d. Which stage are you in (concerning marriage with God)?

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7. So what does this have to do with grace? It is by God's grace that we are even considered to have contact with Him at all, much less being in the closest relationship possible, that of marriage with Him.

8. Do you want to be this close to God?

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9. How are you preparing yourself?

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10. How can imperfect human beings unite with a perfect God?

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11. How good do we have to be in order to be acceptable to God?

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12. Through the years there have been many theories concerning what is necessary to be acceptable to God. They seem to make sense:

- a. If you are better than others, you will be accepted.
- b. If your good deeds outweigh your bad, you are acceptable.
- c. If you are from the right family or connected with the right people, you are acceptable by association.
- d. If you follow the traditions of your ancestors, you will do well.
- e. If you practice some religion, you are guaranteed to get into heaven.

13. Which of the theories in number 12 are truth?

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14. If you remember our study on truth in lesson 1, you will recall that truth is the word of God (Jesus). Jesus dispelled the notion that any of the above theories are truth. He shocked everyone with the Sermon on the Mount. Read Mat 5:20, Mat 5:48, Is. 64:6, and Romans 3:23. How good do you have to be in order to be acceptable to God?

**Matthew 5:20** For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

**Matthew 5:48** You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

**Isaiah 64:6** we have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We

all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. (ESV)

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (ESV)

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15. Read 1 Peter 2:24-25, Isaiah 53 4-6, and I John 1:9, How can we be perfect in His sight?

1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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16. So this is grace: it is a gift, unmerited favor, a mystery of the universe. All we need to do is accept it and thank Him for it. Then we are clothed in His righteousness and ready for the wedding.

17. Recalling our study of truth in lesson 1, if God says you are perfect and others, including yourself, say you are a sinner, what is truth?

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18. Let's look at the life of King David. His life story has been recorded in 2 Samuel and Psalms. His life was much like ours, with times of success and times of failure. Some of his greatest failures were sins which are recorded in 2 Samuel chapter 11. He committed adultery and he committed murder.

19. Read 1 Kings 14: 7-8. This was written after David died and is God's perspective on David's life. What did God remember about the life of David?

1 Kings 14:8 ... and yet you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commandments and followed me with all his heart, doing only that which was right in my eyes,

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20. Does God have a bad memory?

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21. David believed the word of God (Jesus). He accepted God's grace and he thanked Him for it.

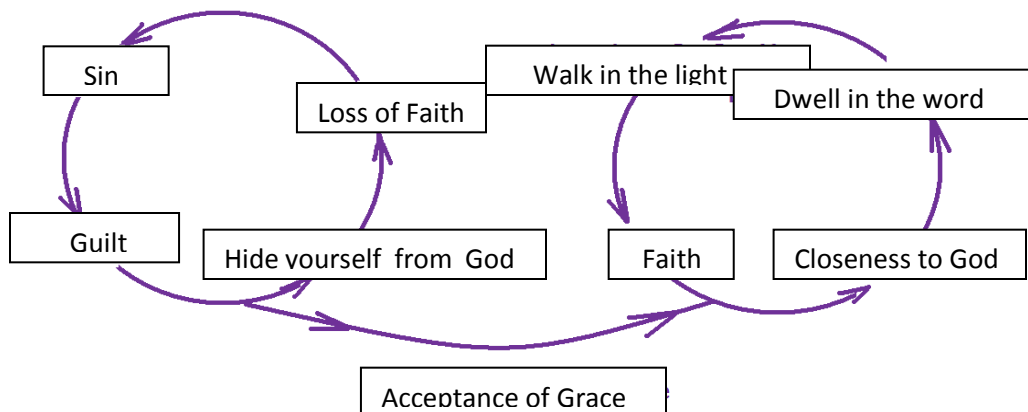
22. Read the following scriptures concerning Paul: 1 Corinthians 15 9-10, 1 Timothy 1:12-16. Did Paul accept the grace of God?

1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

1 Timothy 1:12 I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service,  
 1 Timothy 1:13 though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,  
 1 Timothy 1:14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.  
 1 Timothy 1:15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.  
 1 Timothy 1:16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

**23. conclusion: God loves you with an everlasting love. Draw near to Him with confidence and receive His grace.**



24. Memory Verse: John 1:17

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

25. To do: Read the following scriptures and ask God to apply them to your life:

Isaiah 43:25 "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

Ephesians 2:9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2 Timothy 1:9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

Romans 6:14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

26. Do you believe these scriptures? Have you applied them to your life?

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