



Community Group Discussion Guide

September 8, 2013

Week 1 - The Grace of God

John 6:35-47

Read all of John chapter six before answering the following questions. Take special note of verses 35-47, the verses in the first sermon in this series.

Introduction

A very unusual and intriguing title for this series, but a perfect title for what Jesus teaches in the passages we'll be looking at in this series. Crux is a word most of us have used at some point. You're talking with another person about a certain issue that's important to both of you. You really want this person to know why you believe what you believe.

You want this person to know what it is that you see as the critical and central point of the issue you're discussing. And to make this clear, you preface what you're about to say with these words... "Here's the crux of the matter as I see it."

In this sermon series we're looking at nine of these 'crux of the matter' statements that are made by Jesus about some of life's most critical issues. Issues that are so important that they have the potential to be life changing for every one of us.

Questions for Study

1. Take a few minutes to reflect back on your life. Think of one or two times when you most needed to experience 'grace' from the people closest to you. What did you do or not do that created this need for you? Did you receive the 'grace' you hoped to receive? If yes, how did you feel once you received it? If no, how did you feel?
2. The same question from the other direction. Think of one or two times when someone in your life needed to receive 'grace' from you. What did it take for and from you to show them this grace?
3. Jesus did an incredible miracle in this sixth chapter. What was it? How did nearly everyone who benefited from this miracle respond?
4. What Jesus said in verses 35-47, he said in response to the people's response to his miracle. Read these verses very carefully. If you were to write one sentence to summarize what he said, what would you write? The one word to include in writing out this sentence is the word 'grace'.
5. Sunday's sermon will make two main points about God's grace: 1. God's grace is necessary. 2. God's grace is lasting. Find the verses (what Jesus said) that fit under each one of these points. Then write in your own words what Jesus said about each one.
6. How is your life different knowing the truth that Jesus teaches about God's grace?

One more question... This one for how you prepare yourself for sharing your faith in Jesus Christ with others.

7. How can you take what Jesus said in these verses to explain your faith in Jesus Christ to someone you know who is not a believer? (This is an important question so gives careful thought to it.)