



JOHN 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, **full of grace** and truth.

START TALKING

1. What was your takeaway from Sunday's message?
2. Was there anything from Sunday's message that challenged or encouraged you?
3. What has God been doing in your life this week? Anything we can celebrate?

START THINKING

1. Read John 1:14. Jax said she believes that Grace saves us and truth sets us free. How often have we encountered truth, with Grace bringing up the rear?
2. Consider Jax's example of the bath toy (duck) and how, when the Holy Spirit fills us, He spills over into other areas of our lives. What does grace look like in your life? How do you express it to others?

START SHARING

1. Thinking about your own experiences, has there been a time when you were going through a difficult time, and someone you knew extended grace towards you? How did that experience impact your life?
2. Is there anyone in particular in your life to whom you can demonstrate undeserved grace?

START PRAYING

Pray for each other as the circumstances allow, for the Holy Spirit to overflow in your lives and extend towards others.

START DOING

How can we demonstrate God's grace to others? Think of ways that apply to your specific situation, and ask God to give you the opportunity to show His life-changing grace to others.

NOTE TO LEADERS

Our "Love in a Gift Pack" initiative is still in play. Encourage your group to get involved with sponsoring a gift pack for a child this Christmas. The cost of a gift pack is R100, and donations can be made on the Nation Changers website or via Zapper.

This Sunday, in the second week of our "What's So Amazing About Grace?" series, Jax shared the story of Elisabeth Elliot who, together with her husband Jim, felt called by God to reach the Auca Indians in Ecuador. When Jim was killed by the very people he was trying to save, Elisabeth set about learning the language of the people of that village, and got to know some of the women from the village and she chose to go back to the village. Eventually many people in that village gave their life to Jesus.

"We have proved beyond any doubt that God means what He says. His grace is sufficient. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. We pray that if any, anywhere of fearing that the cost of discipleship is too great. They may be given a glimpse of that treasure in heaven promised to all."
 - Elisabeth Elliot

Definition of Grace: Divine power of heaven extended towards me.

Grace enables us to be what we could not otherwise be.
 Grace enables us to do what we could not otherwise do.
 Grace enables us to see what we could not otherwise see.

Grace enables us to live a supernatural life that is far beyond what we could do without it.

When we extend Grace to others, it sets us apart.

The world is in desperate need of GRACE.

What does Grace look like?

1. GRACE SHOULD MAKE US LESS JUDGEMENTAL AND CRITICAL OF OTHERS.

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:

¹⁰'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The 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. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get."

¹³ '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."

¹⁴ 'I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

- Luke 18:9-14

Do we look for opportunities to extend grace, or are we very quick to step into judgments of others or expect people to behave a certain way before we'll give them our time, our energy and our efforts?

2. GRACE SHOULD GIVE US HOPE FOR OTHERS.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
 Colossians 3:12-13

If God can change my heart, my desires, and my behavior, His grace can change the heart and life of anyone.
 Do we really believe that God's grace is enough for everyone?
 Or do we have a limit? Do we put people in a box?

Do we look at others with eyes of GRACE?
 Do we listen to others with GRACE?
 Or do people have to behave before we extend grace towards them? Do they have to prove themselves to us?

3. GRACE SHOULD MAKE US KINDER.

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.
 Colossians 4:6

As people who get to step into the waterfall of God's grace, who get to receive and live in the grace that God has given us should be some of the kindest people on this earth because of the grace that we've received.

Jax finished her message with a story about a man named Otto Koning who moved, with his family to New Guinea. You can watch his story on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nt23gnwjdsU>