

Mosaic

Week 3: Coloring Outside the Lines

Objective: To challenge us to recognize that God's grace is not limited to us and those like us .

ICEBREAKER

Most of us learned as children that you're supposed to **color inside the lines**.

- Were you the kid who carefully stayed inside the lines, or did you ignore them completely?
- How do you generally respond when someone breaks an unwritten rule or crosses a boundary you assumed everyone understood?

1. When “Everyone” Becomes “Someone”

It's easy to say:

God loves everyone.

Jesus died for everyone.

God's grace is available to everyone.

The sermon asked a harder question:

“What do you do when ‘everyone’ becomes ‘someone’?”

“Everyone” becomes more complicated when they have a face, history, opinion, yard sign, criminal record, or social-media account. Pasted text

- Why is it easier to believe in grace for “everyone” in general than for certain people specifically?
- What causes us to begin drawing lines between “us” and “them”?
- How might we treat someone as though they are beyond God's grace without ever actually saying it?
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2. Blessed to Be a Blessing

Read **Genesis 12:1–3**.

God chose Abraham and promised to bless him. But God's plan was always bigger than Abraham:

“All peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

God chose **one family so He could bless every family**. Pasted text

- Why is that last part of God's promise so important?
- What's the difference between seeing God's blessing as a **privilege to protect** and a **gift to share**?
- How might Christians today fall into the same temptation of turning God's blessing into a boundary?

3. Jesus Crosses the Lines

Read **Matthew 8:5–13**.

The centurion was a Gentile, a Roman, part of an occupying army, and outside Israel's covenant. To many people around Jesus, he was on the wrong side of virtually every important line. Pasted text

- What surprises you about the interaction between Jesus and the centurion?
- What boundaries might Jesus' original audience have expected Him to honor?
- Why do you think Jesus' willingness to help—and then praise this man's faith—would have been so uncomfortable for some people?

4. A Seat at Abraham's Table

Jesus says:

“Many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.”

The sermon connects this directly to Genesis 12: God's ancient promise to bless the nations is beginning to unfold through Jesus. Pasted text



- What does the image of people from east and west sitting together at the table tell us about God's Kingdom?
- Why is sharing a table such a powerful picture of belonging?
- Who might we be surprised to discover sitting at God's table?

5. We Are Included Because Grace Crossed the Lines

Read **Galatians 3:7–9**.

Some Jewish followers of Jesus were insisting that Gentile believers needed to adopt Jewish practices in order to fully belong to God's people.

Paul's response was clear:

“Those who have faith are children of Abraham.”

The sermon reminds us that most of us are the Gentiles in this story. **We are included because God's grace crossed lines others had drawn to reach us.** Pasted text

- How does remembering that change the way we think about who belongs?
- Why are people who have received grace still tempted to create requirements for others?
- What's the difference between encouraging obedience to Jesus and adding conditions to God's grace?

6. “To Follow Him, You Have to Be Like Me”

The sermon summarized the Galatian problem this way:

“To follow Him—you have to be like me!”

Paul wasn't opposed to obedience. He opposed making human requirements a **condition of God's grace**. Pasted text

- What are some ways Christians might unintentionally communicate, “You can follow Jesus, but first you need to become more like us”?
- How can preferences, traditions, culture, or expectations gradually become “lines” we confuse with the Gospel?
- How can a church hold convictions faithfully without making its preferences prerequisites for grace?

7. Who Is Outside My Lines?

The sermon asks a deliberately personal question:

“Who, in your life, is the EVERYONE who has become SOMEONE?”

Maybe we've stopped praying for them. We avoid meaningful relationships. We assume they wouldn't listen or wouldn't come. We begin seeing them as a problem rather than a person

Jesus came to save. Pasted text

- Without sharing anything you would rather keep private, can you identify someone—or a kind of person—you tend to place on the other side of the line?
- What put that line there?
- How might Jesus challenge the way you currently see that person?

8. Don't Just Erase the Line—Cross It

The sermon's final challenge goes beyond changing our attitude:

“Don't simply stop drawing lines, cross them.”

Go toward that “somebody” and show them the same grace that crossed a line to reach you. Pasted text

- What is the difference between simply deciding not to exclude someone and intentionally moving toward them?
- What fears or assumptions keep us from crossing those lines?
- What is one realistic way you could cross a line this week to demonstrate the grace of Jesus?



FINAL THOUGHT

From the beginning, God's plan was bigger than one person, one family, or one nation.

God called Abraham so that **all peoples** would be blessed.

Jesus welcomed a Roman centurion whom others would have placed firmly outside the lines.

Paul reminded Gentile believers that they belonged to Abraham's family through faith—not because they had learned to fit inside somebody else's religious boundaries.

And that's where the story becomes personal.

Most of us are not standing inside God's family because we were born on the “right” side of the line.

We are here because grace crossed the line to reach us.

So if God's grace crossed the lines others drew to reach us, we cannot receive that grace and then use our own markers to decide whom Jesus is allowed to reach next.

GOD'S GRACE KEEPS COLORING OUTSIDE THE LINES WE DRAW.

THIS WEEK — CROSS THE LINE

Don't make this week's challenge abstract. Think of an actual **someone**.

IDENTIFY

Ask:

“Who have I placed on the other side of a line?”

You don't have to announce the answer to anyone else. Be honest with yourself and God.

REMEMBER

Remember how grace reached **you**.

You didn't earn your place in God's family. You received it through faith in Jesus.

PRAY

Begin praying specifically for your “someone.”

Not merely that they will change or become more like you.

Pray that they will encounter the grace and love of Jesus.

CROSS

Take one intentional step across the line.

Start a conversation. Extend an invitation. Share a meal. Listen. Serve. Reconnect. Show kindness.

Don't simply stop drawing lines.

Cross one.

