

Week 3: Do You See What I See?

God's grace to us is an invitation to be amazing. It's our chance to extend to others what God has freely extended to us. But while most of us are full of something . . . it's usually not grace. So what are you full of? And what would it take for you to give someone what they don't expect? Or deserve?

Discussion Questions

- 1. How do you think most people would finish the sentence, "The church is full of people who are "?
- 2. The church is most appealing when grace is most apparent. What would need to change in order for people to see the church as appealing? Do you have a part in that solution?

3. Read Matthew 7:3-5.

- If you were asked to explain Jesus' meaning to a young child, what would you say? How would you summarize his questions and challenge?
- What do you think are the most common "planks" that prevent people from seeing clearly?
 Which of those planks do you identify with most?
- 4. What person or group of people is most difficult for you to extend grace to? Why? Does the sin of that person/people break your heart or disgust you? What's the difference?
- 5. Jesus was full of grace and truth. What are you full of? What comes out of you when you get shaken up by a relationship or circumstance?

6. Read Romans 5:8.

- When in your past have you been tempted to believe that you had to have your act together before God would love you? What does Paul say about that mentality?
- What does God's demonstration of love teach us about our response to others in the midst of their darkest/most sinful times?

7. If grace is the unsettling solution for just about everything, what part can you play in the solution to a problem or relationship? What does it look like practically for you to extend grace to that person who doesn't expect or deserve it?

Moving Forward

We are the church . . . every day . . . everywhere. And we are most appealing—the church is most appealing—when grace is most apparent. Grace is our greatest opportunity to be like our Father in heaven. Pray together as a group using Romans 5:8 to thank God for his grace and asking him to give you the same mindset as you approach your most difficult relationships and problems.