



## **The Jesus Way: The Way of Grace**

We are in a discipleship conversation about following Jesus, who is the Way. In John 14.6, Jesus brings this into focus, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." It is when the Jesus truth is organically joined to the Jesus way do we experience the Jesus life. The way of Jesus was anticipated by 1800 years of men and women who endeavored to live in the ways of God. This week we look to David as our guide. David reveals to us the way of Grace. There is a charismatic verve to his life that compelled the attention of everyone. David is remembered as a great King, a giant slayer, a patriarch of our Savior, the worship fueled poet of nearly half of our Psalms and a "man after God's own heart". But David was far from perfect, in fact you could easily swap our title from the "the Way of Grace" to the "Way of Imperfection." From start to finish David's life reveals a deep need for Grace.

We approached this message by swinging open the doors of our perception to both see the David story and to hear the David prayers. The biographical story, narrated to us in 1 and 2 Samuel, show to us David dealing with Samuel, Saul, Jesse, Jonathan and Bathsheba. The prayers, preserved for us in the Psalms, show to us David dealing with God: sin and repentance, despair and hope, doubt and praise, guilt and grace.

The story David lived and the Psalms he prayed provide us with a spiritual imagination that is capable of understanding the operations of God to do His perfect work in us, not our capacities to perfect ourselves. This is the way of Grace. The stories and prayers together free us from the winners script and a performance mentality. They free us from the perfectionist expectations of others and the perfectionist ambitions we set for ourselves. David's story helps us see that God's grace carries us from unlikely beginnings, through the pain of rejection, sustaining us as we learn to wait and offering us outrageous forgiveness for our sin and rebellion. As we walk in this "Way of Grace", God gives us a song to offer the world around us. It's not a song that ignores the pain and strife of our journey's but it is a song of brokenhearted affections. A song that originates from a humble heart, aware of our imperfections but overwhelmed by the goodness of God all around us.

Here is a link to Sunday's Message – <https://vimeo.com/365123151>

Discipleship Questions:

- 1) How Does David's story reveal to you "The Way of Grace"?
- 2) What changes might God be calling you to make in your living and your thinking in order to live in "The Way of Grace"?

- 3) In what areas of your life do you most need the transforming work of God's grace? Do you need grace to give you confidence, to help you overcome rejection or to help you wait on God's timing in your life? Where do you need the restoring power of God's forgiveness in your life?
- 4) One reality of living in "The Way of Grace" is that we carry God's love, forgiveness and mercy to others living in worry, fear, grief and pain. How could you carry grace into the life of someone this week?