

STUDY GUIDE: “CHRISTMAS IS...GRACE”

Discussion Starters

1. What is the best Christmas present you ever received?
2. On a scale of 1-10 (1=not important; 10=extremely important), rate
____ how important giving Christmas gifts is to God
____ how important receiving Christmas gifts is to God

Study:

3. Look up the word “grace” in an English dictionary. What does it mean?
4. Look up the following passages. Read them in context and note what they teach us about grace.

John 1:16-17

Acts 20:35

Romans 6:23

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Ephesians 2:1-9

6. EXTRA CREDIT: Using an exhaustive concordance and/or topical Bible, discover everything you can about grace in the Bible. Use another piece of paper to record what you discover. (HINT: Focus on words/concepts such as “grace”, “gift” and “free” to start).

Study Guide: “Grace”, p. 2

7. To complete the next section of the study guide, you will need to use a Bible Dictionary. Remember, the words listed below are from the NASU, but the word you are trying to define is the Hebrew or Greek word translated by the NASU—NOT the English word. If you have any questions about how to use these tools, contact your group leader or one of the pastoral staff.

Define the following words or terms.

--“were realized” (John 1:17)—

--“help” (Acts 20:35)—

--“receive” (Acts 20:35)—

--“gift” (Romans 6:23)—

--“grace” (Ephesians 2:8)—

8. Choose one of the words you looked up above, and write how understanding the meaning and background of that word better helped you understand this passage.

9. Is “grace” in Ephesians 2 and 2 Corinthians 12 the same thing? Please explain.

10. How important is “grace” to the Christian faith? Please explain.

Taking It Home

10. How well understood do you think the concept of grace is in the world? In the church?

11. What needs to change for grace to be better understood and accepted in the church?