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GRACE
CHANGES EVERYTHING



WEEK 1 | The Scandalous Gift

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we stand amazed at the saving grace that has been extended to us guilty sinners, for there is none righteous in your sight. Yet you offer the free gift of salvation to all who simply trust in the name of the only begotten son of God, Jesus Christ, to whom belongs all honour and glory, forever and ever, Amen.

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

What was your favourite game or toy you played with as a child? Why was it your favourite?

NOTES

WORD

¹ Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? ² Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. ³ What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? ⁴ By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,

“That you may be justified in your words,
and prevail when you are judged.”

⁵ But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.)

⁶ By no means! For then how could God judge the world? ⁷ But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? ⁸ And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

⁹ What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, ¹⁰ as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ no one understands;
no one seeks for God.

¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does good,
not even one.”

¹³ “Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive.”
“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

¹⁴ “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”

¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery,

¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known.”

¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

ROMANS 3:1-18

The Apostle, Paul, is writing to his Jewish believer audience in Rome to encourage them to not see themselves or think of themselves as higher than the Greeks or Gentiles. He uses various psalms that they would be familiar with from the

Hebrew scriptures to remind them that the great equaliser of all humanity is the fact that there is no one who is righteous. This draws us to the conclusion that we are all far from good and we are all in desperate need of a Saviour!

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10, how would you rate your ability to view and treat others as valuable? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. Verse **11** says, “no one understands, no one seeks for God.” How is your understanding of God? Do you seek him regularly?
3. How can we keep our tongues from being full of curses, bitterness, and deception (**vs 13-14**)? Does your talk regularly bring life (**Proverbs 18:21**)?
4. If you do not yet have a relationship with the God who saves us, and sets us free from trying to pointlessly work our way into righteousness, would you like to follow him and enter into a saving relationship with him through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer with them:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER