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BY THE BOOK

Truth In A
Tumultuous
World

WEEK 5 | Grace Changes Everything

PRAYER

Loving Father, I am a sinner and deserving of eternal death and the lake of fire. I am not worthy to set my foot in your heavenly home, but I believe that the Lord Jesus paid the price for my sins through his death on Calvary and I accept your free gift of salvation and eternal life in him. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

From [Prayer Knowing Jesus](#)

WARM UP (OPTIONAL)

If you could try one occupation for 24 hours, what would you try?

NOTES

WORD

¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[ROMANS 6:16-23](#)

J.D. Greear on Romans 6

Tim Keller says that there are 3 sure-fire tests to show you what your spiritual masters are:

1. Epi-anger: When something blocks you getting a good thing, you get upset. That's normal and fine. But if something blocks you from getting an ultimate thing, you get epi-angry. You snap. You rage.

2. Epi-worry: If something good in your life is threatened, you get worried. If I found out my kids were in danger, I'd be worried. That's natural. But if something ultimate in your life is threatened, you are paralyzed. Your fear has become epi-fear. You are so anxious that you cannot think right.

3. Epi-sadness: If you lose something good in your life, you grieve and weep. Again, that's normal. But if you lose something ultimate, you despair; you fall apart; you feel like life is not worth living.

These 3 emotions point to places where something has displaced God as the Master of your heart. So, what ends up provoking these 3 emotions in you?

- What makes you the angriest?
- What causes you the most worry?
- What has caused you the most sadness?

GUIDE QUESTIONS

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

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = none at all; 10 = extreme), how would you rate your resilience when it comes to self-control? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. What makes you the angriest? What causes you the most worry? What has caused you the most sadness? Are you able to identify who or what really is the master of your life?
3. What do you think it means to be a slave to sin? Have you ever experienced this? Can you share your experience?
4. The Message translation by Eugene Peterson translates vs 17-18 as, "All your lives you've let sin tell you what to do. But thank God you've started listening to a new master, one whose commands set you free to live openly in his freedom!" Can you identify with letting "sin tell you what to do"? Have you been listening to and obeying God, who is the "new master" that is described here?
5. Would you like to trust God with your life, and receive the gift of God's grace, and enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

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.