Grace People Jonathan Cleveland August 12, 2018

Small Group Discussion Questions

God seems intent on growing our capacity for grace with others

At times grace feels offensive and unwise to give.

*What feels offensive or unwise to you about not giving people what they deserve?

Until we receive the love from God that only He can give, we will never prefer grace in our relationships

We will continue to try to get people to give us what only God can give.

*How does putting God sized expectations on human sized people affect my ability to give grace?

Read and discuss

Genesis 20:1-3 (NIV)

And God spoke all these words: 2"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.3"You shall have no other gods before me.

Mark 12: 29-30 (NIV)

²⁹ "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

*What are these passages telling us about the substitutes we find for God?

Grace People start believing they are deeply loved by God

They begin to gravitate towards forgiveness and grace.

*What is the relationship between our perceived identity and our actions?

*What would it be like if you stopped looking for others to 'be God' to you? What would it look like for those you are in relationship with if you forgave them for not being God?

*What do you sense He may be saying to you about giving people what they don't deserve?

This week, try one of these suggestions to help you become free to be a Grace Person

- >> Identify who you have put in the place of God
- >> Identify the longings you bring to others instead of God
- >> Forgive someone in your life for not being God
- >> Press into God's love for you

^{*}Have you noticed this dynamic in your relationships?