

Lesson 2 – Grace & Redemption

Introduction

In Lesson 1, we saw how sin disrupted God's perfect design, leaving humanity separated from Him and under the weight of death. But God's story does not end in disruption. From the very beginning, He had a plan of redemption, a plan not rooted in our effort, but in His grace. Grace is God's unearned, unmerited favor toward humanity, fully revealed in Jesus Christ. To understand discipleship, we must first grasp the wonder of God's grace and the completeness of His redemptive work.

Teaching Session

1. God's Loving Solution

John 3:16 (NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- The motivation behind redemption was love.
 - Grace is God giving His best (His Son) to restore what was lost.
 - Salvation is not earned; it is received through belief.
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2. Christ Became Sin for Us

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- Jesus did not merely sympathize with sinners; He took our place.
 - At the cross, the sinless One bore the penalty of sin.
 - Redemption exchanges our guilt for His righteousness.
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3. Redemption by the Blood of Christ

Ephesians 1:7 (NIV)

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

- Redemption literally means “to buy back.”
 - Christ’s blood was the price paid for our freedom.
 - Forgiveness is not based on our merit but on His sacrifice.
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4. Salvation as Gift, Not Works

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NIV)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.

- Salvation is entirely God’s initiative, not man’s achievement.
 - Faith is the means of receiving grace, not earning it.
 - No room for pride, only gratitude.
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5. Justification and Peace with God

Romans 5:1–2 (NIV)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

- Justification = declared righteous in God’s sight.
 - Grace restores what sin destroyed: peace with God.
 - Redemption is not just about forgiveness, but restored fellowship.
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Study & Discussion Questions

1. How does John 3:16 show the connection between God’s love and His grace?
 2. What does it mean for Christ to “become sin” for us (2 Corinthians 5:21)?
 3. Why is it important to understand that salvation is a gift, not something we can earn?
 4. How does redemption by Christ’s blood affect the way you see your past failures?
 5. What does it mean to “stand in grace” as Romans 5:2 says?
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Application & Reflection

- **Memory Verse:** *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8–9, NIV)
- **Personal Reflection:** Write down areas where you have tried to “earn” God’s approval through works or performance. Lay them before Him and thank Him for the free gift of grace.
- **Group Activity:** Read Ephesians 1:7 together. As a group, list all the ways Christ’s redemption brings freedom (e.g., forgiveness, new identity, restored fellowship). End with a time of thanksgiving prayer.