



# SCANDALOUS GRACE

Note to Leaders: Every Small Group is Different. Don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group

## INTRODUCTION

God's grace is scandalous. It is a threat to the religious for fear of immorality or loss of control, To most people, it's simply too good to be true. All religions teach that we have to do something for God in order to get something from God. Good behaviour results in good reward from God and vice versa.

Jesus who claimed that he had come from God taught the total opposite. He said it is the poor in spirit who will inherit the Kingdom of God. His teaching and his life shows us how scandalous God's love and grace is for all of us.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe how you feel or what you think about when you hear the word "hypocrisy."
2. Read Luke 15:11-32.
  - a. In the culture of Jesus' day, much of the wealth of people was found in their land, cattle, etc. Why do you think the father would give his son the inheritance? What does this reveal to us about God?
  - b. When the son finally comes to his senses and returns to his father, the story says that the father saw him from a distance and started to run towards him. (In that culture it was a shameful act for men to run.) What are you thinking if you are the son? Can you relate to this feeling when you've sought forgiveness from God?
  - c. What extravagant things did the father do to welcome his son? How would you describe God's emotion when we return to Him? How does that make you feel? (vs. 20-24)?
  - d. While the sons both have different offenses, the root cause is the same. What is that cause?
  - e. There are two lost sons in the story: one was lost by being very bad and the other was lost by being very good (it was his sense of righteousness that prevented him from entering the house). Which of the two sons do you identify with the most? Why?
3. Your Heavenly Father loves you more than your performance or the blessings that he can give you. Do you really believe that? Have you allowed yourself to experience God's unconditional forgiveness through Jesus Christ?

## MOVING FORWARD

How can you avoid becoming exclusive about your relationship with God like the older brother in this parable Who do you know that is lost (Name the lost people for whom you can pray regularly)? What can you do to help bring them to the Father?.

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

God is your Good Heavenly Father who goes to great length to pursue you because He loves you more than you will ever know..