

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of August 16-22, 2020

“SCANDALOUS GRACE”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

If you had a monument dedicated to your memory, what kind of monument would you prefer: Building? Park? Street? Library? Airport? Other? Why?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read 2 Chronicles 33:1-20.

1. When you think of the age when Manasseh became king and the length of time that he reigned, what words would you use to describe the kind of king he was, knowing the life he lived?
2. Manasseh's sins seem to be a laundry list of every conceivable idolatry. He is perhaps unique in the extent to which his idolatry penetrates into the temple itself (vv. 4, 7). How does verse 9 compare his sin to that of the other nations? How does Manasseh respond to God's warning, and what are the consequences (vv. 10–11)?
3. In your opinion, why does it often take a painful experience to make us change? How has this happened to you?
4. According to verses 12–13, why was Manasseh restored? Verse 13 says that Manasseh “knew that the Lord was God.” What does Manasseh learn about God from his experience? How might Manasseh's experience of deliverance from exile be an encouraging picture for the Chronicler's original audience and to us?
5. How hard is it to forgive someone who hurt you, even if they had a change of heart? How can you tell if you're applying God's grace selectively?

6. What actions does Manasseh take when he returns from exile? Based on verse 17, how successful were these reforms? What lesson does this teach us about the consequences of sin? What indications do you find in a person who is casual about sin and its consequences?

7. Do you find the story of Manasseh “scandalous” in the sense that God would forgive him? Or is it comforting and reassuring? What does your answer reveal about your view of who God is? What is the hardest thing for you to understand when you consider God's love and his justice?

8. [NEXT STEPS]

We give grace because we ourselves desperately need it.

- I will be repent from any rebellion I have against God.
- I will show grace to others even if they don't deserve it and leave the rest to God.
- I will pray for friends, loved ones who are far from God.
- I will guard against any form of rebellion against God.
- I will forgive _____ (name of person).

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a gracious and loving heart towards others.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.