

## For April 22, 2018 Sermon

Leaders: The Day of Service is NEXT SATURDAY. Projects are listed and sign up is available through our website.

### QUICK REVIEW

Thinking through Nat's message, what point or idea did you need to hear most?

Leaders: Nat's three points were,

1. To experience grace, you must recognize who you are – a sinner separated from God and in desperate need of a Savior.
2. Rejection of God's grace is spiritual suicide.
3. God's grace doesn't just redeem our souls, but it redeems our lives.

### MY STORY

1. Have you ever seen a bumper sticker similar to "I'm not perfect, but I'm forgiven"? If you were to put your view of grace on a bumper sticker, what would it say?
2. *Grace* has become a popular baby name. When parents name their daughter *Grace*, what personality traits do you think they hope the child will display?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Nat's first point in his message was, "To experience grace... you must recognize who you are: A sinner separated from God and in desperate need of a Savior." In the story of *Les Mis*, to understand grace, Valjean had to be caught stealing.
  - a. Read Isaiah 53:4-5. Look at the use of the pronouns *He*, *Him*, *His*, and then *we* and *our*. This may be a familiar passage to you. However, look at it with fresh eyes. What did **He** do? What did **we** do? What was the outcome for Him? What was the outcome for us?
  - b. For those of us who have experienced Christ's salvation, is it right or wrong for us to remember that we are sinners? Why do you think this?
  - c. Read Romans 5:6-11. What words describe our condition apart from Christ? Using only this verse, describe the concept of grace.
2. Another of Nat's points was that God's grace redeems our lives. In *Les Mis*, Valjean embraces grace and his life is redeemed; however, Javert rejects it and ends his life.
  - a. Read Psalm 32. What is the "before" attitude and the "after" attitude described in this Psalm?
  - b. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. How do these verses answer the question, how then shall we live?

Leaders: If you need more, Psalm 51 is a psalm that describes the effect sin has on us and our sense of relationship with God.

### TAKING IT HOME

1. How do we help others see their own sinfulness w/o looking legalistic? Is there someone with whom you would like to start a spiritual conversation? Give those names to your group and pray for each other!
2. One thing that will help us see others under an umbrella of grace is to have the right view of our own sin. Why or why not is it difficult to have the right view of our own sin? We need to pray for the right view of our own sin. Make this a matter of prayer this week and see if that affects how you see God and how you see others.