

1. Just for fun: How “real” was Santa Claus to you when you were 5 years old? How did you learn the truth about Santa? Did a belief in Santa motivate you to be “good for goodness sake”? What are you telling your kids about Santa?
2. Do you think most people think of God as a Santa, giving good gifts to good kids and ignoring the bad kids? What is missing from this perception of God? How does grace distinguish God from Santa?
3. Read Isaiah 7:14 and Isaiah 9:6. Assuming Mary knew of these verses, what do you think she was wondering as she thought of being a virgin who had conceived? How did this make the promised Savior personal to her? How did this impact her view of her personal sin? Has the promise of a Savior recorded in the Bible become personal for you? Do you still ponder and respond personally to the Savior? How have you related to a personal Savior this week?
4. Read Titus 3:4-7. List the things that God has done to prove that He is our Savior, not our Santa. When you pray, do you pray to a Santa or a Savior?
5. How does perceiving God as a Santa produce guilt when you are bad? How does perceiving God as a Santa produce pride when you are good. Both are deadly. How does grace remove both? How does grace change your response to God? How does grace change your response others?
6. Read Titus 3:3. Do you remember when you were on this “naughty list”? Pick one of the terms listed and tell how that described your life before you encountered the grace of God. How does remembering grace impact the way you relate to those in your world who are now on this “naughty list.” How are you showing grace to them...or not so much?
7. Read Titus 3:1. Why is it especially important to extend grace to those in positions of leadership? Why is it especially difficult?
8. Read Titus 3:2. How are you doing following the instructions in this verse? Do you have a critical spirit? Isn't this how you want others to treat you when you blow it? How does the continual choice to wonder at grace remove a critical spirit? Is grace still wonderful to you?