

1) Grace finds me in the depths of my distress. (2:1-7)

Have you ever felt like you were in the final moments of your life?

Has God ever put you in the penalty box?

Have you ever felt like God had given up on you?

Describe a time when you got into something way over your head. Did you cry out to God in those moments?

2) Grace frees me from the vanity of idols. (2:8a)

Idols are temporary life preservers that float you for a while but will eventually sink with you.

What are your idols (life preservers)?

Why is smashing idols essential to experiencing God's grace?

3) Grace surprises me with the hope of steadfast love. (2:8b)

Discuss this definition of grace: *Grace is favor given to an ill-deserved person by an unobligated giver.*

What is the difference between grace and wages?

Discuss this statement: *Some people never access the grace of God because they have too high a view of themselves.*

Discuss this statement: *Some people never access the grace of God because they have too low a view of God.*

4) Grace gives me a voice of thanksgiving. (2:8c)

Jonah thanked God for the fish, for God, and his call. Which of these do you have the most difficulty thanking God for?

5) Grace reminds me salvation belongs to the Lord. (2:9-10)

God's grace is not cheap. What happened in the temple that shows us how much it cost God to save us?

Read Matthew 12:40. What did Jesus want us to learn about sin and death from Jonah?

Discuss the following differences between religion and grace. Do you get grace or are you stuck in religion?

Religion

Man reaches up.

If I obey, I'm accepted.

If I'm good, God will love me.

Grace

God reaches down.

I'm accepted, therefore I obey.

Because God is good, He loves me.

Additional Scripture

- 1Kings 8:35-36
- Psalm 30:5
- Galatians 1:6
- Galatians 5:4
- Ephesians 2:4-9
- James 4:6