

THE UNSETTLING SOLUTION FOR JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING

DON'T DO THE MATH – WEEK 2

Small Group Time:

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with key questions, add any optional Scriptures and questions if needed, and then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

Main Idea:

There is an unsettling solution for just about everything, and we can sum it up in one word—grace. It's the undeserved, unearned, unearnable favor that Jesus came to offer us. So why wouldn't we want Christianity to be true? And where should you start if grace was never part of the equation for you?

Key Questions:

1. It's game night. You and your friends are laughing, competing, and having fun. And then... somebody breaks the rules and changes the course of the game. What's your knee-jerk reaction?
 - The Judge: "The rules of the game clearly state this. There's really no gray area here."
 - The Peacemaker: "It's fine. I know some people play that way. It'll work out."
 - The Eye Roller: "Ugh. If I lose because of this, I'm going to be really annoyed."
2. Has there ever been a moment when you knew you messed up and hoped someone would treat you like it never happened? Has anyone ever asked for that kind of grace from you? Why is it so unsettling for us to give that kind of grace?
3. Read **Luke 19:1–7**. How do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus picked him out of the crowd? What emotions did he experience? What does the muttering of the crowd show about our natural response to grace? What do you think the disciples learned about Jesus that day? Is there something here that you can learn about Jesus?
4. Read **Matthew 20:1–15**. When Jesus told a parable, he was challenging his listeners to look for God and to look for themselves. In this parable of the landowner, find yourself. Which group or character do you identify with most? Now find God. What does the parable show us about his kingdom? Why is what we find unsettling?
5. Jesus invites us to see the world and his Father differently. We value fairness. But grace is better than fair. Have you had a more difficult time giving grace, receiving grace, or admitting you need grace? Why?
6. If you started to define grace as undeserved, unearned, unearnable favor, what could change about the way you see yourself and the way you see and treat others?
7. Ben talked about how grace usually works in his relationships – easily offered at the beginning, but the longer the relationship, the more mistakes, the less likely grace keeps getting offered. Who in your life do you struggle to offer grace to? Why?

Next Steps:

- What's one thing you will do this week as a result of something you learned from this message?