

Sermon Questions for Life Groups
Love That Stoops (2 Samuel 9:1-13)
Steve Jones, President of FEB
Sunday, January 15, 2017

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions
or family or personal devotions*

1. As you reflect on your time at West Highland, when would you say God's grace was most evident or abundant to us?
2. Can you think of a time (or times) when someone exercised amazing grace in your life?
3. Re-read 2 Samuel 9: 1 -13. In verse 8, Mephibosheth asks King David a question – the scriptures didn't really record a response, but why do you think King David wanted to extend his kindness and grace to Mephibosheth? (1 Samuel 20, especially vs. 15, 42).
4. Considering vs. 2 Sam. 9:7, how might **Jonathan** be construed to be a 'type' of Christ, as grace is extended to Mephibosheth?
5. Can you think of other stories in the Bible where unearned (unmerited) favour or status was bestowed on an individual?
6. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Steve Jones mentioned that it would perhaps be difficult for people today to accept this concept of God's grace, what would be some other reasons for this? Consider the words of the hymn Amazing Grace.
7. How could the true message of grace and unmerited favour or status really speak to "shame-based" cultures (ie. Asian, Muslim etc) and/or individuals who are products of "shame-based parenting" etc?

8. There are some in each of our lives who we need to extend our grace and God's grace to. Read Colossians 3:12-17: How can we show God's grace to those around us?

9. David's grace to Mephibosheth is also a pattern for us in serving and ministering to others. If we are to follow this example, discuss how:
 - we should seek out our enemies and seek to bless them.
 - we should look for the poor, weak, lame, and hidden to bless them.
 - we should bless others when they don't deserve it, and bless them more than they deserve.
 - we should bless others for the sake of someone else.
 - we must show the kindness of God to others.

10. What did Hemingway's story about Poco tell you about people's desire for forgiveness and amazing grace?

11. Recall the time when you received the Lord Jesus Christ into your life – can you share with your group what were the key element(s) that brought you into the light?

12. At the beginning of his message today, Steve Jones gave an example of a Mark Twain satire where Twain illustrated the inability of churchgoers to get along with each other, perhaps portraying his own disdain for Church. How would you respond to someone that you are witnessing to, who uses this same type of example of conflicts within the church to justify not attending? (Romans 3: 9 – 10, 23 – 24)

13. May 1 – 7, 2017 is designated as Mental Health Week in Canada, giving Canadians from all walks of life and backgrounds an opportunity to discuss issues that affect mental health. It would be an interesting homework assignment to research how guilt, shame, forgiveness, etc. Influences our state of mental health, and to relate that to what scriptures teach us.