



Small Group Questions
November 12/13, 2011

God is Gracious

1. Read Ephesians 2:8. What does that verse mean to you?
2. We live in a world that places a high value on proving ourselves. What evidence do you see of that? Where have you felt that pressure yourself?
3. Which of the three types of slavery Mark described do you see most in people you know? Which do you see in yourself?

Types of slavery:

- Performance based identity
- An image to uphold
- Joyless duty to a demanding God

4. Read Matthew 11: 28-30

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Mathew 11: 28-30 (The Message)

What "Good News" do you see in Jesus' words? Do you believe Jesus' words are true? Do you sense a disconnect between these words and how you live?

5. Read John 21: 15-19

John tells us that "Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him a third time..." do you think that was Jesus' intent? What does Peter's reaction tell you about his ability to fully receive grace? Can you relate to Peter? Explain

6. Mark told us that Peter could no longer say; "Look how devoted I am to Jesus." Instead, he would have to say; "Look how devoted Jesus is to me." How could that bring greater freedom to Peter?
7. Look up the following verses and share which are the most meaningful to you as you seek to understand more deeply the truth that God is gracious.
 - John 1:12
 - John 15: 1,5
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - Colossians 3:12