

Starter Question

What are three essentials you'd want with you if you were trapped on an island?

BIG IDEA:

Grace is THE most essential thing in your life.

SUMMARY:

For most of us, we've lived our lives on a hamster wheel of striving and being exhausted. And then the wheel stopped. All of a sudden the things that seemed essential were removed. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to ask, "What do I really need?". The grace of God has stopped the nonessentials so that we could make room for what is truly essential [Luke 9:25]!

1. WHAT DOES GOD SAY IS ESSENTIAL?

If you want the full life that God offers you, these are the essentials that your life must be built around:

- The Grace of God
- The Spirit of God
- The Word of God
- The People of God
- The Mission of God

Question 1

What did you think was non-essential that now you're realizing is essential? And vice-versa? How can you more fully step into one of these five areas this week?

LEADER TIP: You can help identify those next steps for your group. Grace – pray and ask to receive God's grace in specific areas of their life. Spirit – engage in Tuesday Night Prayer on campus or on Facebook Live. Word – engage in our daily reading plan. People – join a Circle or a group. Mission – participate in Serve the Region projects throughout the week or Serve the City every 3rd Saturday.

2. EVERYTHING STARTS WITH GRACE

Grace is not just some religious term. Grace is...

- Undeserved Favor
- Supernatural Empowerment
- The Life of Jesus Flowing Through You

We see this play out perfectly in the person of Paul [2 Corinthians 12:7-9]. Paul has a thorn in the flesh, something tormenting him, hurting him. God's response: "My grace is all you need. My grace will help you deal with the thorn, help you defeat darkness, and my grace brings my power in the midst of your weakness."

Question 2

Where are you trying to carry a burden with your own strength? Where do you need to surrender in your weakness and invite the strength of Jesus to take over?

3. WHY IS GRACE ESSENTIAL?

Grace is the door through which all of life is found. Grace is essential for your.

- **Forgiveness.** Did you know David is jealous of you? David knew what it is like to try and find righteousness through works. But in Jesus, we have a grace that is freely given to us. [**Romans 5:15 NLT, Romans 4:6-8**]
- **Freedom.** You live under the freedom of God's grace. Which means you have to nothing to prove, nothing to earn, and nothing to achieve. You are a beloved son/daughter in whom the Father is well pleased because of the grace of God. Under grace, you are as free as Jesus. [**Romans 6:14 NLT, Titus 2:11-12**]
- **Future.** How often do you have confidence in your eternal future but are stressed out about tomorrow? [**2 Timothy 2:1 TPT**] What are you anxious about? What are you stressed out and worried about? God's grace has empowered you with true strength to step into the unknown. His grace has empowered you to move forward even though you don't know what is going to happen with school or your job. Grace empowers you to be a hope carrier in hopeless environments, to have joy in a depressing world, to love the unlovable, to have peace in the midst of the storm, and to have wisdom in the midst of the unknown.

Question 3

How has your view of grace been expanded? How can you take a posture of receiving the grace of God this week and what could that empower you to do? Read **Acts 20:32 TPT**.