



As Is | November 25, 2015

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Many times we forget that God's grace covers all things. Depending on where you are on your spiritual journey, you may feel like you are too dirty for God's grace to extend to you, or you may feel that someone else is too dirty to deserve it. The beauty of God is that he loves us just the way we are...he takes us "as is."

Key Verse

Romans 5:8 (NLT)

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Discussion

There are three main characters in this story: 1. The muddy golf girl, 2. The others, and 3. The grandma. The grandma is the "ideal" as she represents God and his grace, while most of us can relate to being one of the other two at some point in our lives.

1. Who in your life has shown you grace that is comparable to that of the grandma?

Sometimes we can get so focused on doing things right that we lose track of doing the right thing. When we get caught up in always being "clean" we can forget about the places where we are in need of God's grace, and we can forget to extend grace to others.

2. Who in our world are the people typically viewed as "the unclean?"
3. What are some specific things you could do to intentionally engage someone who you might need you to let them "ride in your cart" and see beyond the dirt when no one else will?

If we are honest, we can all think of times when we have felt dirty, ashamed, left out, and inadequate. When it comes to faith, it's easy to want to "clean up" before entering into a relationship with Jesus, or we can start to fade away from God as a result of our mistakes. This is akin to prewashing before getting into the shower—it's unnecessary. No matter how dirty you are, the shower takes care of it.

4. In what ways do you feel dirty and inadequate?
5. How might God be asking you to let go of your fears, doubts, and shame to trust and believe that he loves you no matter what?

What's Next?

Think about where you are in your spiritual journey. Have you trusted God's grace to extend to you no matter what? If so, who in your life needs you to embrace them while they are still covered in mud? In either case, how will you take action this week?

For further reading consider the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10.