



## Reality Check: Becoming Grace | May 3, 2017

### Discussion Guide

#### The Scoop

God's grace is like a free lemonade stand on the hottest days of summer. We become a part of that grace when we get good at letting people know we have the lemonade if they are thirsty.

#### Key Verse

**James 5:13-20 (MSG)**

##### *Invitation to the Lord's Salvation*

*Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink—even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk—it's all free!*

#### Discussion

Our bodies need water. Whether it's normal everyday consumption or replenishing after a workout or long walk/hike, our bodies cannot survive without water. Even though we know water is crucial to our health, many of us don't consume enough.

1. Share a story of a time when you were the most thirsty and needed water.
2. How much water do you consume in a day?

We know water is good for us, but we have probably all had someone push water on us in an overly hospitable way or in a demanding way. Typically, we don't respond well to a lack of choice even when it's something that is good for us. Accepting grace and faith conversations are no different. God has asked us to offer a drink of grace but not tell people how badly they need it or force them to drink it.

3. What would you say have been the best conversations you have had about your faith and relationship with God? Why?
4. Many times our faith conversations are about who deserves and doesn't deserve to drink of God's grace. Can you think of people Christians believe don't deserve water?

As Christ-followers we are not asked to determine if someone needs water, deserves water, nor are we asked to force it on them. However, God has asked us to stay hydrated ourselves and make drinks readily accessible to others. Bob Goff says, "Don't tell people they are thirsty when they don't think they are. It's our job to get good at letting people know we have water for when they are thirsty. Making people drink when they aren't thirsty is called water boarding."

5. How might you be sure others know you have water and are regularly extending that grace?
6. What are some ways that Christians might try to share God's grace but actually be "water boarding"?

#### What's Next?

The Bible makes it very clear...Anyone who is thirsty can come take a drink. Isaiah 55:1 is a good example of how we should extend the invitation to those who could benefit from having God's grace in their lives.

1. How do you stay "hydrated" when it comes to your faith?
2. How might you become grace for someone who typically does get offered a drink from God's grace this week?