



## More Than You Can Handle: Grace | June 12, 2019

### Discussion Guide

#### The Scoop

Grace is one of those weird things that we love when it applies to us, but we don't really like when it applies to someone else. Especially if they don't deserve it, right? Hear more about this below.

#### Key Verses

**Matthew 10:29-31 (NIV)**

*"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."*

### Discussion

Picture your ideal backyard barbecue. You pick the décor, the food, and the people. Who are the people you picked? What do they look like and believe? Now, switch out some of the people for people that you don't like, don't agree with, and who don't look like you. If we're being honest, most of us prefer to do life safely and comfortably. That's our default. The first group of people we picked were most likely both safe and comfortable for us. But what if this safe and comfortable mentality doesn't work when we try to map it onto our faith?

1. Explain what the two groups of people at your barbecue would look like. What did you notice about the groups?
2. Why do you think most of us prefer to be around people who are safe and comfortable for us? Why might this be problematic?

The truth is, a safe and comfortable faith only works when things in our life feel safe and comfortable. But the reality is, there are many seasons of life that feel neither safe nor comfortable. But often times, we try to craft our faith life with safe activities around people we are similar to – things we are used to, things that are part of our routines, and things that we're not scared of or uncomfortable doing. Regardless of how different we may be from the second group of people at our barbecue, we all desire the same things – to be valued, to be loved, and to live a life that matters. We don't often think about these things; we focus much more on the many ways that we are different. But grace goes well beyond our so-called differences.

3. What are some of the ways that you live out a safe and comfortable faith life – some of your routines and things you feel comfortable doing?
4. What is your understanding of grace? How is it real for you? How does it apply to the person at your barbecue that you don't like? How does this contradict the safe and comfortable faith you described?

In Matthew 10:29-31, we read about the value that we all have as humans. God says that the hairs on our head are numbered. He knows us that deeply and intimately. And then he compares our worth to that of a sparrow, saying we are worth much more than that. Often times when we read this verse, we are encouraged by our own worth. But what if we were to apply that verse to the people in our life that we don't like? That verse equally applies to them, and it's similar to what grace looks like. Grace makes God available to *all* human beings. In our own lives, we love that we're allowed to screw up and make mistakes, and still be chosen and forgiven by God. But we get uncomfortable thinking about that same concept for someone we don't like.

5. What is your first response to reading this verse?
6. Why is it easy for us to understand grace as it applies to ourselves, but so hard for us to understand how grace applies to people we don't like?

### What's Next?

It's almost impossible, in our human lives, to live out the example of grace that God's set for us. But what if we could get a little closer? Unfortunately, when it comes to our faith, people know more about what we are against than what we are for. But Jesus came for a very different purpose.

This week, as you live out and engage your faith, look for the places where you are holding on to infractions or human measurements of wrong-doing. What might it look like to extend grace to someone you don't like? Enlarge your picture of God by getting uncomfortable around people you disagree with, and acknowledging that God extends grace to them as well.