

RELATIONAL SKILLS 101
Give People Grace!
John 1:10-18

Question: What if the people in your life had to **pre-qualify** for your love and acceptance?

The Big Idea: Since Jesus extended **grace** to people, so should **we**.

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14
“From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” John 1:16-17

Part One: We extend grace to people when we **accept** them just the way they are.

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”

Romans 15:7

- Definition: We accept people when we whole-heartedly **embrace** them just the way they are.
- We accept other people even though they do not have their life **totally together**.
- We accept other people even though they **sin**.
- We accept other people even though they are **different** than us.

Part Two: We extend grace to people when we **forgive** them for hurting us.

“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” Colossians 3:12-13

- We are all **hurt** by other people.
- Often, we are **bitter** and **unforgiving** to those who have hurt us.
- We must give people grace by **forgiving** them for what they have done.
- Definition: We forgive someone when we let them **off the hook** for what they have done to us.

Part Three: Our willingness to deal with people in grace will define the **quality** of our relationships.

- Withholding grace causes **damage** to you, the other person and your relationship with them.
- Giving grace brings **health** to you, the other person and your relationship with them.
- When we begin to deal with people in grace, we move from being their **judge** to being a fellow **struggler** with them in the journey of life.

The Bottom Line: Commit yourself to being **grace-filled** in your dealings with the people in your life.

The Ride Home Questions: Where do you most struggle with extending grace to people? What could you do about that?

Study Questions:

1. How can Jesus' way of dealing with people help us in our dealings with people?
2. Read John 1:10-18 and note the references to Jesus dealing with people in grace. What did that mean? Can you think of examples from his life that show that grace? How does Jesus extend grace to you?
3. Part One says that dealing with people in grace means accepting them for who they are. Answer the following:
 - Who are the people you most struggle to accept in your life? Why?
 - Which of the three categories listed there seems like the biggest challenge to you?
 - What can you do to begin accepting the people you struggle with? How does Jesus' example help you in that?
4. Part Two says that dealing with people in grace means forgiving them when they have hurt you. Answer the following:
 - How does a spirit of bitterness and unforgiveness get in the way of grace?
 - How would you describe what it means to forgive someone who has hurt you?
 - Is there someone you need to forgive right now?
5. Part Three talks about the relationship between extending grace and the health of our relationships. Answer the following:
 - How does a lack of grace in the form of non-acceptance and unforgiveness bring damage to you, the other person and the relationship?
 - How does the extending of grace bring health to you, the other person and the relationship?
6. What is the most important thing you need to do as a result of this message?