



**The Gospel of Mark – Under Grace  
Pastor Dave Patterson 05.12.2024**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

**[Ephesians 2:8-9]**

<sup>8</sup> God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

**[Romans 8:3]**

The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

**[Romans 6:14]**

For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are no longer under the law, but under grace.

### **[Mark 2:23-28]**

<sup>23</sup> One Sabbath day as Jesus was walking through some grainfields, his disciples began breaking off heads of grain to eat. <sup>24</sup> But the Pharisees said to Jesus, "Look, why are they breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath?" <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to them, "Haven't you ever read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? <sup>26</sup> He went into the house of God (during the days when Abiathar was high priest) and broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. He also gave some to his companions." <sup>27</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup> So the Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath!"

**LEGALISM: when rules replace relationship / man's attempt to please God by keeping the law apart from grace / an overbearing adherence to and reinforcing of regulations.**

### **The Pharisees had embellished God's Law into:**

- 613 rules
- 248 Commands
- 365 prohibitions
- 1,521 amendments
- The Sabbath laws listed 39 common activities that were outlawed because they could be construed as "work"

### **[Colossians 2:16-17]**

<sup>16</sup> So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. <sup>17</sup> For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality.

### **[Matthew 22:35-40]**

<sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap Jesus with this question: <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> The entire law and all the demands of the prophets hang on these two commandments."

### **[Mark 3:1-6]**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus went into the synagogue again and noticed a man with a deformed hand. <sup>2</sup> Since it was the Sabbath, Jesus' enemies watched him closely. If he healed the man's hand, they planned to accuse him of working on the Sabbath. <sup>3</sup> Jesus said to the man with the deformed hand, "Come and stand in front of everyone." <sup>4</sup> Then he turned to his critics and asked, "Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?" But they wouldn't answer him.

<sup>5</sup> He looked around at them angrily and was deeply saddened by their hard hearts. Then he said to the man, "stretch out your hand." So the man held out his hand, and it was restored! <sup>6</sup> At once the Pharisees went away and met with the supporters of Herod to plot how to kill Jesus.

### **1. Embrace the awkward moments.**

#### **[Mark 3:3]**

Jesus said to the man with the deformed hand, "Come and stand in front of everyone."

### **2. Put on Humility in order to receive the needed grace.**

#### **[1 Peter 5:5-6]**

<sup>5</sup> And all of you, dress yourselves in humility, ... For "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. <sup>6</sup> So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time, he will lift you up in honor.

### **3. Stretch yourself toward Jesus and let grace do the heavy lifting.**

#### **[Mark 3:5]**

Then he said to the man, "stretch out your hand." So the man held out his hand, and it was restored!

## **Key Points:**

1. Embrace the awkward moments.
2. Put on Humility in order to receive the needed grace.
3. Stretch yourself toward Jesus and let grace do the heavy lifting.

## **Applications for the Week:**

Are you living more under rules and religion rather than under grace? Ask God to show you any areas you need to make changes. Replace religion with a relationship with Jesus. Embrace the awkward moments, put on humility, and stretch yourself toward Jesus by letting grace do the heavy lifting.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. How strict or relaxed was your upbringing in your home? What were the contributing factors?
2. What was the point of so many rules and regulations in the Old Testament? To what end do you think God allowed those?
3. Why did Jesus make it a point to confront legalism? How can these rules affect relationships?
4. Why is it important to receive grace? If so, why do so many try to earn it by doing good and kind acts?
5. Pastor Dave said, "Grace works from the inside out." What does this mean to you? Briefly share how you have experienced this in your life.
6. Who do you know that models well living by grace? What is that person's daily conversation like?
7. How does grace enable us to live Holy lives? **(Refer to the Key Points for discussion)**
8. What covenant promises is God still preserving and fulfilling in our day?