

OUTLINE & QUESTIONS

GRACIOUS

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PSALM 103

1. God is _____
2. God's _____ means we _____ what we deserve
3. God's _____ means we get what we don't _____
 - We get a _____
 - We get _____
4. The _____ thing about grace

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

- 1. The Opening Question** Pastor Eric asked strangers “What does God think about you?” If someone asked you this question out of the blue, what would your immediate reaction be? What do you think most people’s gut response would be, and why?
 - 2. Compassionate and Gracious** Psalm 103:8-10 describes God as “compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love” and says “he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.” What would it look like if people treated each other this way? Why do you think this kind of compassion might be difficult to practice?
 - 3. The Most Important Thing** Pastor Eric challenges the quote “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us,” suggesting instead that what God thinks about us matters more. Which perspective resonates with you more? How might these two different focuses change how someone lives their daily life?
 - 4. Getting What We Don’t Deserve vs. Not Getting What We Do** Pastor Eric explains grace as both “not getting what we deserve” and “getting what we don’t deserve.” Can you think of examples from your own life where someone showed you this kind of grace? How did it make you feel, and how did you respond?
 - 5. The License to Sin Problem** Some people think grace means they can do whatever they want because they’ll be forgiven anyway. Why do you think this misses the point? What’s the difference between someone who sees grace as a “get out of jail free card” versus someone who sees it as guidance toward a better life?
 - 6. Grace as a Coach** Pastor Eric describes God’s grace like a coach who is “always present, always for us, always cheering us on.” How is this different from how many people typically think about God? What might change in your life if you truly believed God is always in your corner this way?
 - 7. Gifts and Talents** Pastor Eric suggests that the things you’re good at and enjoy doing are actually gifts meant to serve others. Do you agree that service should generally align with what you’re good at and enjoy? Why might some people feel guilty about enjoying their service to others?
 - 8. Dust and Grass** Psalm 103:14-15 says God “knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust” and compares human life to grass that “flourishes like a flower of the field.” How does it make you feel to think that God understands human frailty and the temporary nature of life? Why might this perspective actually be comforting rather than discouraging?
 - 9. The Wonder of Grace** Pastor Eric mentions that even angels are curious about God’s grace toward humans, and that Jesus made himself “lower than the angels” to show us this grace. What do you find most amazing or hard to believe about the idea that God actively chooses to be “for you”?
 - 10. Becoming Gracious Like God** Pastor Eric explains that grace is one of the attributes of God that we’re meant to develop in ourselves. Think of someone in your life who has hurt or disappointed you. What would it look like to be gracious toward them the way God is gracious toward us? What makes this challenging, and what might make it possible?
- PRAYER PROMPT:** Read Psalm 103:1-5. The Psalmist begins Psalm 103 by listing some of the “benefits” that he has experienced from God. Take some time as a group, thanking God for the ways his grace has impacted your life. Go around the group twice, each person thanking God in prayer for two different things.