



**Week of December 19, 2021**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking of your relationships, who are you looking forward to at Christmas? Is there anyone you are dreading? How does the season of Christmas often exaggerate all that is wrong with the world?
2. Paul described GRACE as the shock absorber in life. What other word pictures would you use to describe grace?
3. Read John 1:14-18. What is the significance of the word “full” with grace? How do these verses contrast law and grace?
4. We often evaluate behavior to determine how we or others are measuring up. Read Galatians 5:1-4. How is measuring by the law different from experiencing and giving the fullness of grace?
5. What relationships do you need to extend grace to? Imagine how your life would be if you paused enough to fully experience God’s grace shown to you? How can this group pray for you this Christmas season?

## **Moving Forward**

Reflect on this statement: The reason I am afraid to give them what they do not deserve is because of \_\_\_\_\_.

When we refuse to demonstrate God's grace, we misrepresent the message of Jesus and those around us miss seeing the good in the good news. Therefore, the good news of Christmas cannot be at work in or through us.

## **John 1:14-18**

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. <sup>16</sup>From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known.

## **Galatians 5:1-4**

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. <sup>2</sup>Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. <sup>3</sup>Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. <sup>4</sup>You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.