

## Week 1: The Receiving and Giving of God's Grace

**Series:** Gratitude

**Key Verses:** Genesis 8:15–20

**Speaker:** Dr. Justin Hardcastle

**Big Idea:** What is gratitude? Gratitude is the practice of actively remembering and expressing the grace (benefits we do not deserve) and goodness bestowed in our lives. We have an innate desire to show gratitude for the goodness and grace we receive (Genesis 8:15–20). Noah spent approximately 356 days on the Ark. As he walks off the plank, Noah makes a conscious decision that the *very first thing* he will do is to say "thank you" to God.

**How does God respond to this act of gratitude (Genesis 8:21-9:1)?**

- God, knowing Noah's heart, understood that Noah leaving the ship and offering a sacrifice was more than sacrifice.

**God** \_\_\_\_\_.

- **Blessing Noah was not a response to anything Noah had *earned*.**
- Noah's blessing was not a response to his obedience, although blessings do come from choosing obedience.
- The Bible tells us, God does not desire sacrifice for sacrifice's sake, but that He delights in our outward expression of what is in our hearts (Psalm 51:15-17).
- By choosing to practice gratitude, we choose the grace that God has freely offered us and offer it freely back to him *and others*.

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**God \_\_\_\_\_ Grace.**

- It is easy to recognize God's grace in our life when life's greater needs are met.
- When it comes to some of the smaller graces in life, or better put, more subtle graces in life, because we do not necessarily *feel* them at that moment, we often fail to recognize God's abundant grace throughout our day.

**Practicing \_\_\_\_\_ God's Grace**

- God knows that humans can be forgetful.
- So, when the children would ask, "*why do we practice the Passover?*" God wanted the adults to respond by remembering the Passover with gratitude for their salvation.
- Practicing gratitude, receiving, and expressing God's grace is the foundation for building a life of significance.
- Our desire to express receive and give grace is what makes life significant.

**Ask Yourself These questions:**

- What is most important in life?
- Will I leave a legacy that benefits those who I leave behind?
- How will what I build in this life carry into my eternal life?

**What Is God Speaking to me today?:**

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