



## Deep Impact 2019 Mission Bible Study

**DI Verse – “For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.” Titus 2:11-14**

### Day 1 – God’s Grace

What is grace? **Can you define grace in your own words?**

The classic definition: God’s grace is His unmerited (*not earned or deserved*) favor, Grace means that God showered favor and blessing on those who did not in any way deserve or earn it. They deserved His judgment and wrath. But He showed them favor.

- How is God’s grace different from what the world teaches us about *earning or deserving* what we get?
  - The world tells us we “earn” what we get; the world works on the merit system ... we are rewarded for good grades, we are given athletic scholarships and lots of applause when we are the best player, we are given raises and promotions for good performance, and unacceptable or sloppy performance can get us fired ...
    - Look at the parable of the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16) ... **how does this relate to grace being given freely and undeserved?**
- Grace can be looked at as a “giver-receiver” relationship .... God is the giver and we are the receiver. He wants to supply what we need, that we do not deserve and cannot pay for. God, in His infinite generosity, mercy and grace, wants to supply what we need.
  - Grace brings salvation...you don’t go out and “get” salvation. It comes to you and you have the opportunity to receive it ...as a **free gift**
    - Grace came in the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross for our sins – **Share Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**
  - The word “salvation” can convey the basic idea of rescue; being saved. If you are in danger, and someone come to your rescue – we call that “salvation.” (**ask.... What do we need to be rescued from?? - )**
  - Share the example of receiving a present ... the giver is giving you a present without expecting anything in return (like a Christmas gift or birthday gift)... we have to accept the gift from the giver (receive it) and open it .... Jesus is that free gift offered to each of us (all people of every nation and ethnicity) .... Each person has a choice to accept it (and open it!)
- Some people believe we “earn” God’s grace by doing good works; that salvation comes my merit (earned.) This idea of “merit-salvation” teaches you have to add your works to what Christ did on the cross in order to go to heaven.
  - Many people today believe you can get to heaven by being good or doing good deeds.
  - Read Ephesians 2:4-9

Share the story – (note: you decide if this is an appropriate story for your group – adjust as needed depending on the age and situation or use a portion of the story)

<https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/the-perfect-illustration-for-gods-outrageous-grace-an-excerpt-from-proof/>

Grace ...this is the gospel message for people today, but you have to make it personal. Are you living today in response to the grace of God? How does understanding the grace of God and the fact that His grace offers salvation for all effect how you serve?

*NOTE: Incorporate this to fit your team. If you choose, present the Gospel at this time. You may also choose to include activities appropriate for the age of the group and verse memorization.*

## Day 2 – Saying “No” to what?

Start by reading the DI focus verse. Take time to talk about what we need to say “No” to in our lives.

- **What are some of the temptations we face on a daily basis? Are you always able to say “NO” or is it easier sometimes to give in?**
  - Why is it so easy to give in to the sin nature we have?
    - “We are like children who find the taste of poison sweet and pleasing, and we have to be taught first that the bottle with the skull on it is deadly. The big “SIN” on the bottle means it will kill you. Don’t drink that. Avoid it. More deeply, we need to go deeper than to have a sign out front that keeps us from doing what we really, really, really love to do.” quote from John Piper
- Read Romans 3:23 – we all have sinned .... **But does knowing we all sin make it ok?**
  - Temptation is common to all Christians. Temptation is not a sin, but giving into it is the sin. **Read and talk about James 1:13-15**
- **What is ungodliness?**
  - Ungodliness is simply anything which contradicts God’s will or His nature.
- **How do we know what is God’s will or His nature?** (look for the group to know God’s Word – the Bible- is our means for knowing the will of God and resisting temptation)
  - **Explain that God knows all and knows when we sin ... and also knows the difficulty we have in resisting temptation that leads to sin**
  - Paul talks about the challenges of knowing what he should do and still being unable to resist
    - Share Romans 7:18-20 (look at it in a couple of different translations) – talk about how we try to live by the law but it is going to take more than the law to help us .....
    - This leads to “grace” offering salvation through Jesus!!

Object lesson on resisting temptation .... **Tug-of-War** (need a rope)

Have two volunteers play tug-of-war. One volunteer will hold one end of a rope, and will be “the devil and the world.” The other volunteer will be on the other end of the rope, and will be the “Christian.” While they begin to pull each other back and forth, explain how Christians need to fight against the temptations of the devil and this world. As the Christian begins to lose, begin reading Scripture (1 Corinthians 10:13) as a third volunteer comes in and pulls the Christian back as the victorious winner. You can then explain how God is with us in times of trouble, and He does not give us anything that we cannot handle. (<https://www.kidmintools.com/2013/04/16/object-lessons-on-resisting-temptation/>)

*NOTE: Incorporate this to fit your team. Customize with your own personalization.*

### Day 3 – The grace of God *teaches* us to say “no”

Start by reading the DI focus verse and reviewing the first two Bible studies about grace and sin.

- **What has the power to teach us to say “no” to sin?**
  - Not the law of God, or the fear of getting caught, or living in the right community.
    - The laws (commandments) give us guidance yet we cannot follow the law on our own strength.
    - Getting caught in our sin is a fear we have but sometimes the thrill of getting away with something makes sinning even more exciting.
    - Living in the right community with fellow Christians can be helpful in resisting temptation, however, we all sin and struggle with the temptations.
- **It is grace – only grace – that has the power to teach us to say no to ungodliness and to renounce the sinful desires of this world, and to live instead a life that is pleasing to God.**
  - **Share with your group ....** Grace teaches us to say no to sin because it always gives us another chance. If there were no grace, then as soon as we sinned we would be condemned. But grace is the favor of an undeserving mercy that comes to us again and again. **God never gives up on us!** Sometimes we are tempted to think that every time we sin – especially if it’s something we have done before – God gets a little bit more disappointed with us, until finally he gives up on us altogether. We forget that God has enough grace to forgive us again by the power of the blood that Jesus shed on the cross. So when we sin, we do not need to give up. God will give us another chance to grow in godliness.
- **Have you ever heard... “Just say NO!” – what was this phrase referring to?** (Nancy Reagan was on to something when she coined this phrase to teach students to say NO to drugs)
  - **How can we use this phrase in our lives with other things?** (just say no to ..... lying, stealing, gossip, etc – give the students a chance to answer)
  - **Discuss the following statements in regards to how grace can teach us to say no:**
    - If it feels good it must be right.
    - If everyone else is doing it, it must be ok.
    - God is loving and forgiving so I’ll just do it and say I am sorry afterwards.

Finally, grace teaches us to say “no” ... by making us **grateful**, which is the best motivator for godliness.

- **Are you grateful for what Jesus did for you?** If we go through life trying to earn something from God, it will wear us out. Knowing He died on the cross and took the punishment for our sins should make us grateful to the point of living a godly life.
- Close with making sure all understand God’s plan of salvation.

*NOTE: Incorporate this to fit your team. Customize with your own personalization.*

## Day 4 – The grace of God teaches us to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives

Start by reading the DI focus verse and reviewing how grace teaches us to say “no.”

- Say “yes” to godliness! Through that same grace that teaches us to say “no” to ungodliness and worldly passions... through the grace of Christ we can learn to say “yes” to Christlikeness!
- It’s the nature of grace to produce self-control, uprightness, and godliness.
  - Self-control – defined as the ability to control one’s emotions or desires (not doing what they want to do versus what they should do)
  - Uprightness- defined as the condition or quality of being honorable or honest
  - Godliness – defined as belief in God and reverence for His character and laws
- **Read 1 Peter 1:3-4** – through His power He has given us everything we need in life...
  - We receive God’s nature when we are born again and become a new creation...
    - However, our inner being remains housed in a body of flesh which is influenced by sin...
    - As a result, we are not always consistent in living out our new nature.... Living a godly life
- Look at **1 Peter 1:5-7** – because of this internal struggle we need to discipline ourselves so we can live in line with Christlikeness .....
  - “For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.” 1 Peter 1:5-7
    - Note that each new quality doesn’t replace the one before it, but adds to it!
- God has given us His Word and has shown us how to fight back so we can become strong in the spirit. James 4:7 says, “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
  - Resist temptation by saying no to sin, then it will be the enemy that runs.

**Use the following questions for a time of discussion about making tough decisions when it comes to saying yes to godliness:**

- If I do this will I be disobeying one of God’s commands?
- If I do this will I be loving God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength?
- If I do this will I be “loving my neighbor” as myself?
- Would I do this if I could see Jesus standing next to me?
- If I am still not sure what to do who is a trusted adult I can talk to?

*NOTE: Incorporate this to fit your team. Customize with your own personalization.*

## Day 5 – The grace of God teaches us to wait for Jesus

Start by reading the DI focus verse and reviewing what we have talked about up to this point.

**Share ....** Grace teaches us to say “no,” then to live godly lives, and all the while to “wait for the blessed hope-the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” The grace that produces eager waiting, triumphant hope, anchored in the promised return of Jesus our great God and Savior seems to be a rare commodity among us Christians.

**So...what does this mean?** The grace, so freely extended to us by Jesus, teaches us to say no to sin, teaches us to say yes to godliness, and it teaches us to wait for Jesus.

- How should we wait? We are not patient people! We just do not like to wait for anything! But....
  - Are we productive while we wait?
    - **Give examples of times you have had to wait for something.... What do you do while you wait?** (Waiting in line at the amusement park, waiting for the bus, waiting for a friend to visit, waiting.... Waiting.... )
- **Read the parable of the talents .... Matthew 25:14-30** (discuss what was going on in this parable and how this applies to our lives)
  - Encourage your students to avoid comparing their abilities with those of others. Challenge them in areas that will develop their talents such as reading books about this skill, or sharing stories of others who put this skill to use. Above all, encourage them to use these talents in a way that pleases God.
  - One commentary describes it as ... “ It is not to be passive waiting, but getting on with the job and making the most of the opportunities entrusted to us.
    - Every day should be spent serving our Lord... sharing the Gospel and making disciples.
  - As Christians we have a mission that our Lord expects us to accomplish in the here and now.
    - This mission, summarized in the cultural mandate, challenges us, as Paul Marshall writes, “to work, to perform, to develop, to progress, to change, to choose, to be active, and to overcome until the day of [our] death or the return of [our] Lord.”
- **How do we *actively* wait for Jesus by doing and serving? What about your involvement in missions? What about in your church? What about at home?**
  - **Where do you SERVE?**

In closing ... share the following story/challenge to stress the point that we are unable to do anything without the help of Jesus.

*Tell your students you are having a jumping contest. Only the person that can cross the yard in one jump will be the winner and get a prize. You have as many chances as you need (eventually they will come to the conclusion that no matter how many chances they get or how hard they try, they are unable to do it.)*

*Now tell them you are going to pick them up and carry them across the yard in order to win the prize. As you celebrate their great victory in “jumping across the yard,” tell them that living like Jesus is much like jumping across the yard. **We simply cannot do it by our own efforts. Only God can forgive our sins, which is possible only because of the fact that Jesus paid the penalty for our sins. And only the Holy Spirit living in us can enable us to live in a way that pleases God.***