

## Conversation Starters

- When was the last time you had a conflict with someone?
- How did you resolve it?

## Discuss

**Paul's final reminder to Timothy (and us) was about grace and how we are to practice it, as seen through his relationship with Mark.**

*Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. ([Acts 15:37-39a NIV](#))*

*Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. ([2 Timothy 4:11b](#))*

**As important it is to receive grace from Jesus, we are to give grace to others. People are different, as God designed and intended us to be. We can apply grace to other people's differences in a way that not only accepts them, but celebrates them.**

- How do you tend to view someone who is different from you?
- What does it look like to celebrate someone's differences?
- Do you take time to stop and reflect on how God has designed our differences?
- Do you surround yourself with people who are different from you or the same?

**We can also apply grace to other people's weaknesses. Every human life is marked by weakness, and only extending grace to people with the same weaknesses as us is not grace. We can apply grace to someone's weakness by being intentionally empathetic.**

- What are your strengths?
- What are your weaknesses?
- Is there someone you can be intentionally empathetic towards?

**Perhaps most difficult of all is our need to apply grace towards someone else's sin, specifically, their sin against us. Grace is undeservedly and freely given to us by Jesus, and we should offer that same grace to other people.**

- How do you view your sin?
- How do you view the sin of other people?
- How can God's grace toward us inspire us to freely give grace rather than withhold it?

## Next Steps

If we're going to fight the good fight and finish well in life, we must give grace to all of the people around us. It is the basis of our relationship with God, and helps us live in an authentic Christian community. Spend some time reflecting on your need for God and how He met your needs through His grace. Let it inspire you to freely extend grace to the people around you.

Dec. 2: [The Prophets: Big Picture Bible Study](#)

Dec. 2: [The Grounds Online Book Club: A Christmas Carol](#)

Dec. 18-23: [The Christmas at Meck Experience](#)

## Continued Reading

[Acts 15:36-41](#); [2 Timothy 4:11](#).

## Prayer

God, you are so merciful and your grace is truly amazing. Forgive us for when we get grace wrong and fail to extend to people around us. Thank you for your faithfulness and for Jesus and providing Him even though we don't deserve it. Help us celebrate our differences, serve each other in our weaknesses, and freely and unconditionally give grace to the people around us.