

Seeking God's Ways (3 of 6)  
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, March 20th, 2022



**Series Focus:** Lent is a time to repent—to turn from our ways and recommit ourselves to the ways of God as revealed in Jesus. What do those ways look like? Join us for our Lenten series as we explore the higher ways of God and embrace his will for our lives.

**Sermon Title:** From Earning to Receiving

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 55:1-9; Matthew 20:1-16; Romans 3:21-26; Ephesians 2:1-10

**Sermon Focus:** The New Testament is clear that we cannot *earn* our salvation or gain access into the Kingdom of God by our good works. We do not merit the Lord's love and favor. Instead, it is all a gift that we simply *receive* from a good and gracious God. In this third message of our Lenten series, Pastor David invites us to receive the scandalous grace of Jesus so that we might live by faith and extend his grace to others.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Matthew 20:1-16 together. This parable isn't as well-known and likeable as other parables of Jesus (e.g., the Lost Sheep, the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, etc.). It's possible that you've never even heard a sermon on the Parable of the Vineyard Workers. Why do you think that is? What is it about this parable of Jesus that challenges our ideas of work, wages, fairness, equality, etc.?
2. This parable is ultimately about God's unmerited favor (grace) for everyone, including those who, for whatever reason, have been marginalized, discarded, or who have come into the Kingdom later in life, either by choice or circumstances. We like the message of grace if we are the ones in need of it. But what about when it's "those people"? Why is it easier to receive grace than give it away?
3. Pastor David said, "As justice without mercy is not *biblical* justice, likewise, fairness without grace is not *biblical* fairness and equality. If the love, mercy, and grace of God don't impact your views of justice, fairness, and equality, then your views are likely being impacted by the current *zeitgeist* or spirit of the age." What do you think of this? How have you a "justice" and "fairness" at work in the world that is divorced from the love, mercy, and grace of God?
4. There are several important takeaways from this parable. For example, we can't earn God's love and favor, he gives it to all with equal measure; the Lord cares about those who are unwanted and marginalized; the most important thing is working for the Master of the vineyard, not the reward; and Jesus wants us to receive his grace and share it with others in need. Are there other takeaways that you see? What speaks to you the most about this parable of Jesus?
5. Are there ways you have been trying to *earn* God's love and acceptance in your life (e.g., good works, spiritual disciplines, etc.)? What would it look like for you to receive God's gift of grace? How can your group support and pray for you?
6. How is God inviting you to extend his love and favor to someone in your life and show the same grace you have received yourself? Share that with your group. When everyone has shared, lift all these things up to God in prayer together.