UNSEARCHABLE

WEEK 4
GRACE
DANNY ANDERSON

We do not <u>love</u> very well.
"No one knows how bad he is until he has tried very hard to be good." C.S. Lewis
But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices . <i>Colossians</i> 3:8-9
How do we become a good person?
We become good people by means ofgrace
But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18
Grace is strength for life.
"Grace is God acting in your life to do what you cannot do alone." Dallas Willard
Grace is <u>available</u> !
How do we access this grace?
1. You must believe it's <u>possible</u> and it's <u>better</u> . Matthew 9:28-29
2. Begin training
"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher." <i>Luke 6:40</i>
"The secret involves living as he lived in the entirety of his life- adopting His overall lifestyle." Dallas Willard
Automatic patterns of response
"The training program must involve the purposeful disruption of our automatic thoughts, feelings, and actions by doing different things with our body." Dallas Willard
We are creating space for God to do his work.
<u>Meditation</u>
Prayer
Fasting

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WEEKLY BIBLE READING

ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT	SUNDAY Ephesians 4:1-16	MONDAY Ephesians 4:17-32	TUESDAY Ephesians 5:1-33	
this week	september 25	september 26	september 27	
WEDNESDAY Ephesians 6:1-24	THURSDAY Philippians 1:1-26	FRIDAY Phil. 1:27-2:18	SATURDAY Phil. 2:19-3:3a	
september 28	september 29	september 30	october 1	
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE John 13:35				

[&]quot;**Make** a tree **good** and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit." *Matthew 12:33*

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For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Introduction

The good person is the one who consistently spreads love. They do what is best for others. This is how Jesus moved throughout the world, and he calls his disciples to do the same. The tension we face is that our natural bend is to act selfishly. C.S. Lewis said, "No one knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good." Today, we'll discuss what we must do to become the loving disciples Christ calls us to be.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Love is doing what is best for others. Why is this such a struggle? Share some recent examples of ways you may have mistreated others by not putting them first.
- 2. This past weekend, grace was described as "God working in your life to do what you cannot do by yourself." Grace is strength for life. Share an example of how God's grace has helped you do something you could not have done in your own strength?

Where do you need that kind of strength to follow through on what you know God wants you to do?

3. Christ-followers have access to God's strength but rarely tap into the grace of God. Why do you think that is?

Read Matthew 9:27-30. Grace is accessible by believing God's will for your life is possible and better. Is there something you have a hard time believing God can do? Why?

What do you have a hard time believing could ever be better? Why?

4. Read Luke 6:40. If we want to be like Jesus, our training program must disrupt the automatic responses that are embedded in our bodies. What kind of automatic responses are deeply ingrained in your body that do not exemplify the love of Jesus?

Silence, solitude, meditation, prayer, and fasting are spiritual disciplines Jesus used to model spiritual training. Discuss how each of these spiritual disciplines disrupt our body's automatic responses and paves the way for renewed thinking.

Small Group Questions Continued

Which of these disciplines will you commit to practicing over the next week and what is your plan to do so?

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

OUR CHURCH

Help with childcare during Moms Time Out. Please contact Jody Peak at jodypeak13@gmail.com.

OUR COMMUNITY

Habitat for Humanity is doing a Bargersville build and we need volunteers for 10/13 and 10/15. Contact Kerry Jones at kiones@eclife.org.

OUR WORLD

We have partners in Haiti, Nicaragua and Colombia. Check out the dates for the upcoming trips and as a small group pray for the teams that are going, sponsor a member by helping financially, and/or write letters of encouragement for the members going. The next team is traveling to Nicaragua in October.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT	SUNDAY Phil. 3:3b-4:1	MONDAY Phil. 4:2-23	TUESDAY Colossians 1:1-18
this week	october 2	october 3	october 4
WEDNESDAY Colossians 1:19-2:7	THURSDAY Colossians 2:8-23	FRIDAY Colossians 3:1-17	SATURDAY Colossians3:18-4:18
october 5	october 6	october 7	october 8
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE Matthew 12:33			

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _	
I'm accountable for_	, and their action steps are
My memory verse is	

This coming week, I'm praying for: