

PREACHING CURRICULUM

SIMPLY FOLLOWING JESUS – MARK 7:24-37

FORESHADOWING THE GREAT COMMISSION

We are always totally undeserving of God's grace. By faith, we recognize that God owes us nothing and yet gives us so much. This grace empowers us to love others and care for them in an up-close and personal way.

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Read Mark 7:24-30. In what ways was the Syrophenician woman an unlikely candidate for Jesus' healing ministry?

How should we understand Jesus' surprising and somewhat offensive statement to the woman in verse 27? Was He just trying to get rid of her, or did He have another reason for saying what He did?

What can we learn about the nature of authentic faith from the woman's response?

Read Mark 7:31-37. Why did Jesus take the deaf man aside privately before He healed him?

What can we learn about ministry from the unusual way in which Jesus healed the deaf man?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Do you think that God is obligated to love you because you deserve it? Or is the opposite true of you? Do you have a hard time believing that God loves you because you feel like you don't deserve it? Explain your answer.

Have you ever felt angry because God did not answer your prayers in the way you expected? If so, describe the situation and the reasons why you felt the way that you did.

When was the last time that you got up close and personal with someone to whom you were ministering? Have you ever found yourself doing something awkward and uncomfortable in order to love someone else? Or, do you tend to shy away from getting too deeply involved in people's lives?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

God's grace is totally undeserved – that is why we call it grace. This can be a hard concept to internalize and deeply believe. How can you believe more deeply in God's free grace to you?

In what ways can you demonstrate love and grace to others in an up-close and personal way? Think of a few practical examples.

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

How will you rely on the grace of God this week?

In what ways can you demonstrate practical, up-close love to someone this week?