

Divine
"Bread Crumb"
Trails



SHEPHERDCHURCH

Week 5: Law and Grace

Welcome

Conduct a group poll: Would you rather...

- Get up early in the morning or stay up late at night?
- Hang at the beach or hike in the mountains?
- Spend the day at Disneyland or Universal Studios?
- Snack on M&M's or Skittles?
- Root for the Lakers or Clippers?
- Go to a Chargers game or Rams game?
- Attend USC or UCLA?
- Listen to a sermon from bald pastors or pastors with hair?

Worship

Ask someone to read *Psalm 130* aloud and discuss where you see God's grace in the psalm. Then, close in prayer.

Word

1. Today, many people assume they must "earn" their worth. How do you see this mindset play out in work, relationships, or social media?

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2. What in your life are you tempted to leverage to make yourself acceptable to God?

3. According to *Romans 7:7-12*, what is the relationship between Moses' Law and sin?

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4. How does **Galatians 3:23-26** explain the relationship between the Law and faith in Jesus?

5. Read **Matthew 5:17-18; Romans 10:4; and Colossians 2:13-14**. What does it mean that Christ is the end of the Law? How did Jesus fulfill the Law?

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6. In the video lesson, Caleb mentioned a flashlight as an example of how the Law and grace work together—it reveals a problem in a car engine while also illuminating the tool to fix it. Similarly, the Law exposes our sin, and grace shows the way to redemption through Jesus. Below are five analogies that illustrate this relationship. Choose two or more and use the details to create a brief story that helps someone understand Law and grace:

- **Bathroom Mirror** (the Law), reveals dirt on the face (sin), and also shows the water and soap that can clean it (grace from Jesus).
- **GPS Navigation** (the Law), alerts you when you're off course (sin), and also provides the directions to get back on track (grace from Jesus).
- **Medical Test** (the Law), diagnoses an illness (sin), and points to the medicine that can heal it (grace from Jesus).
- **Grocery List** (the Law), shows what's missing from the pantry (sin), and what's needed to restock it (grace from Jesus).
- **Magnifying Glass** (the Law), brings attention to a small flaw (sin), and also magnifies the instructions for how to fix it (grace from Jesus).

7. What are some ways we can avoid falling into legalism while trying to live for Jesus?

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Witness

Update each other on how your Life Group project is going.

Personal Reflection & Deeper Study for this Week

- Memorize *Ephesians 2:8-9*.
- Read *Romans 8* each day for the next 7 days (try reading *Romans 8* in a different Bible version each day).
- According to *Romans 12:1-2; Philipians 2:12-13; and James 2:14-26*...
 - If you are saved by grace, why do these passages emphasize good works?
 - How can you balance faith and works in your daily Christian life?
 - How can you embrace grace while still pursuing holiness?
- Read *Isaiah 64:1-7; Mark 7:20-23; Romans 3:9-31; Romans 6:23; Colossians 2:13-14; and 1 John 3:6-10*.
 - In what ways do these passages describe sin?
 - What do these passages reveal about the consequences of sin?
 - What are the different ways that people are described in *Romans 3*?
 - How does the contrast between being “dead” and “alive” in *Ephesians 2:1-5* help us understand grace?
 - What does *Colossians 2:14* mean when it says God “nailed the law to the cross”?
 - Write your own one-sentence definition of sin based on the passages.