

## Embrace the Mess Small Group Questions

Share a time when someone showed you unexpected kindness or hospitality. How did it make you feel?

### Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus brings a new kind of kingdom fueled by forgiveness, not performance.
2. In Jesus' kingdom, every person is valuable - no exceptions.
3. Jesus calls people by name, not by reputation.
4. Grace is contagious and has the power to transform lives.
5. Jesus invites us to His table before we even knock.

### Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions that "Gospel people obey God to get God." How does this differ from obeying God to get things or blessings?
2. Reflect on the story of Levi (Matthew). How does Jesus' approach to Levi challenge our assumptions about who "belongs" in God's kingdom?
3. The pastor says, "Hurry is the violence of the soul." How does this resonate with your life? In what ways does hurry impact your ability to see and value others?
4. How does understanding that we're all "unclean" and in need of Jesus' grace change the way we view and treat others?
5. The sermon states, "Grace doesn't just forgive your past. It rewrites your future." How have you experienced this in your own life?
6. Discuss the difference between seeing people as "projects" versus seeing them as valuable individuals made in God's image. How can we cultivate the latter perspective?

### Practical Applications:

1. This week, intentionally slow down in one area of your life (e.g., commute, meal times, interactions) to be more present and aware of others around you.
2. Identify someone in your life who you may have judged or categorized unfairly. Pray for them and look for an opportunity to show them kindness.
3. Reflect on how you've experienced God's forgiveness. Write down ways this can motivate you to extend grace to others.
4. As a group, brainstorm practical ways to create a more welcoming and inclusive environment in your church or community.

5. Challenge yourself to have a meaningful conversation with someone you might normally avoid or overlook.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank you for your unreasonable hospitality towards us. Help us to see others as you see them - valuable, loved, and worthy of grace. Give us the courage to slow down, to invite others to your table, and to be agents of your transformative love in this world. In Jesus' name, Amen.