

## PEOPLE OF THE SECOND CHANCE PART 1: WHAT GOOD IS GRACE?

Everyone experiences failure in life. Professional failure. Relationship failure. Moral failure. Ethical failure. Financial failure. Sometimes it seems like doors shut, plans fail, and our best efforts fall far short. The words, “It’s not enough” ring in our ears and it seems like there is no path forward and no way back. But we know that the One who is in control will always take us back and make for us a path forward. We know this because we are People of the Second Chance.

### Discussion Questions

- 1 In his message, James states that “We all like talking about grace, but none of us like talking about what makes grace necessary. Sin.” What makes the topic of our own sin such a difficult one to approach?
- 2 Without the realization and confrontation of the issue of sin in our lives, what good is grace?
- 3 In Philippians 3:4-6 Paul reveals that at some point He, like us, had invested much into presenting a version of himself that people would be impressed with. How does this futile activity affect the day-to-day application of grace in our own lives, and on behalf of others.
- 4 What does the conversation about grace reveal to you about the character of God?
- 5 What aspect of the topic and/or application of grace provides you with the greatest challenge?
- 6 Where in biblical scripture has God provided a resource to help you deal with that challenge?

**Bottom Line:** *Grace means nothing if it doesn’t save us from something.*

### Action Steps

- 1 Each day this week, have a time of confession — we fall into the (destructive) pattern of judging those around us
- 2 Consider ways to express your gratitude for God’s grace in your life.

### Psalm 139:23-24

<sup>23</sup> **Search** me, O God, and know my **heart**; test me and know my anxious **thoughts**. <sup>24</sup> Point out **anything** in me that **offends** you (any hurtful, grievous way), and **lead me** along the path of everlasting life.

