

Discovering the Christian Faith

Session 1: A Saving Relationship

It's all about relationships

- God made you for relationship
 - With other people
 - With God
- God wants all people to be in relationship with Him
 - By Grace (gift)
 - Through Faith (trusting in him)

It's all about relationships

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

It's all about relationships

"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

John 14:2-3

But there's a problem . . .

- Sin
 - Breaking relationships between people
 - A broken relationship with God
- Sinful Condition
 - A self-centered nature
 - Because we are human



"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:23

The Stairway to Heaven

Religion, as a human institution, is humanity's attempt to repair the relationship.



The Stairway to Heaven

- Good Deeds
- Meditation
- Rituals
- Prayer
- Suffering
- Martyrdom



Grace!

- God came down in Jesus Christ to do for us what we could never do for ourselves.
- This is a completely free and totally accomplished gift
- We receive this gift through faith



Grace!

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Romans 3:23-24

Grace!

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23

Grace!

“We have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

1 John 2:1-2

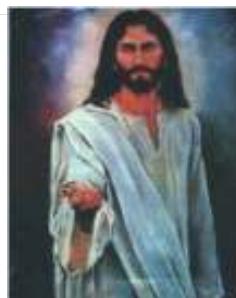
Grace!

- Jesus lived the righteous life we could not live.
- Jesus won the victory we could not win.
- Jesus took our sins from us; and gave his righteousness to us.
- Because our sins are now paid in full, we can be considered right with God, through faith in Jesus!



By Grace Through Faith

- God gives freely: GRACE
- We receive: FAITH
- The result is an eternal, forgiven, transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.



Grace!

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 2:8-10

Grace!

- It's not about religion, but relationship.
- It's not about achieving, but receiving.
- It's not about "DO," but "DONE."



Grace!

"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."

John 1:12

The Small Catechism

- The Gospel
 - Questions 80-85
 - Pages 165-168

