



At the Movies

Wonders Never Cease

#npmovies

Week 3

3 of 5

July 7, 2019

Bottom Line: God's grace is sufficient. God gives us what we need most when we need it most.

Icebreaker: What's a dream or fantasy you had as a child that broke your heart to find out it couldn't come true? Or, what was your worst disappointment you can remember before you were 16?

Key Verse: *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*
2 Corinthians 12:9

The movie "Wonder" is about how can we face life when life hasn't turned out the way we dreamed or hoped it would. What do we do now? It's a great question for all of us because all of us have faced some form of obstacle or roadblock or circumstance that has jumped into our way and has made it difficult to face a world that might not know how to face us. It causes pain and struggle.

Paul had something in his life that caused him great pain, great stress. He uses the analogy of a thorn. We don't know what it was, but we know it caused him tremendous pain, physical and emotional. He said that three times he begged God to take the thorn away. Paul was confused and disappointed because he was serving God faithfully, even enduring great persecution for God. God didn't remove the thorn, but He gave him something else. He gave him sufficient grace. Grace is God's provision for our need. Grace is when God gives us what we need when we need it most. He did it for Paul and will do it for us. Paul found God's grace to be just what he needed.

That's good news because everybody has a thorn. Your thorn is that place in your life where you feel most vulnerable or broken or defeated. You don't want to talk about it. You'd like to pretend it's not there. But like Paul, God is saying to you, "My grace will be enough for you." You can do what Paul and Auggie did: Own your thorns, accept grace, and then extend grace to others. You receive grace and then become a dispenser of God's grace to others. You begin to live like the "Wonder" your Father knows you are! He will do more for you than simply remove your pain. He offers something better! Your circumstances will no longer define you! You will be defined by grace; defined by who your Father says you are.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from today's message?

The Greek word Paul uses for thorn can also be translated as "stake." Paul says he's got this real painful deal that he'd like to get rid of. What is a thorn/stake you have experienced in your life?

I believe that being a "wonder" is not so much about what has been handed to you . . . it is ultimately choosing not to let your circumstances define who you are. Reflect and discuss. How have you seen this up close?

In this world, nobody gets to choose their thorn. Do you currently have a thorn; a place where you feel vulnerable, broken, or defeated? Have you like Paul poured your heart out to God, asking for relief? What has been the result?

Grace is God's provision for what we need. How have you experienced this?

LOOK IT OVER >>>

Grace is the offer of God's non-stop presence and unconditional, irrational love. Grace is the flow of God's power and presence and favor in your life from one moment to the next that can enable you to do whatever God wants you to do. It is God's presence, power, love, mercy, forgiveness . . . just what you need when you need it most. How does this expand on your prior definition of grace? Reflect and rejoice!

"Before Paul met Christ he was not known for grace, but when he met Jesus Christ, he became a grace machine. He never got over grace. His testimony was that "God's grace is sufficient for me." His assurance to the people he loved was that "God will make His grace overflow and abound to you. It will be enough." What might happen if this became the pattern and message for our lives? How is NewPointe doing?

After he experienced God's grace, Paul quit praying for his thorn to go away. Why do you think that is so?

What's your personal takeaway for your situation?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Own your thorns.
- 2) Accept God's grace.
- 3) Become a grace dispenser to everyone in your life.

EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: God's grace is sufficient. God gives us what we need most when we need it most.

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| Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Why did you give yourself this rating? | | | | | | | | | | |
| What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person? | | | | | | | | | | |
| What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating? | | | | | | | | | | |
| At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week? | | | | | | | | | | |

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily.

Monday: Psalm 27:1; Isaiah 41:13

Tuesday: 1 Peter 5:7

Wednesday: Philippians 4:11-13

Thursday: John 1:5

Friday: Romans 8:37; 1 John 4:4

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)