

04.06.2014

Starting
POINT
everything has a beginning

Nothing but...Amazing
Ephesians 2:1-10



study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

INTRODUCTION

At some point in your faith journey, you will settle into a bargaining posture with God. "God, if you will . . . , I promise I will" We all do it. That's just part of religion—every religion. In fact, it's so much a part of human nature that even some atheists and agnostics do it when they find themselves in desperate circumstances.

But is that really how God wants us to relate to him? The problem with a bargaining posture is we never keep up our end of the bargain, do we?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when someone let you off the hook or forgave a debt. How did it make you feel?
2. What do you believe God wants from you?
3. Do you see yourself as a person who needs God's grace? Why or why not?
4. In the message, Dwain said, "God doesn't negotiate because he doesn't want something from you. He wants something for you." Respond to that statement. If it's true, how would it change the way you view God and your relationship with him?
5. **Read together Ephesians 2:1-10 straight through.** What does this tell you about why God would want to give you grace? What event in God's story is grace most embodied in? What does this tell you about the purpose for which God has you here?
6. **Read together, in Paul's companion letter to Ephesians, Colossians 2:13-15.** What does that tell you about what happened on the cross?
7. Most people respond to the idea of unconditional grace with, "But what about...?" What's your "But what about...?"
8. What is one thing you can do this week to shift from a bargaining posture to a posture of gratitude for what God has done for you? What can this group do to help you?

MOVING FORWARD

The good news is, we don't have to bargain with God. Christians believe that God made the first move. Christians believe that God so loved the world he gave his one and only Son. When you receive that gift by faith, the bargaining ends and the relationship begins. Obedience to God is a voluntary response of gratitude for what he's given you.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

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