

## **Bethlehem Lutheran Church // June Confirmation Gathering**

### **Head**

- Please watch the video welcome from Pastor Kevin:  
<https://youtu.be/REuszzreYpU>
- *Grace* is a defining word for Christians - especially Lutherans. Where have you heard the word used before?
- Please watch “Grace Alone” from Luther House of Study.  
<https://www.lutherhouseofstudy.org/home/190167935>
  - What was your key takeaway from the video? Write it here.
  
- Work together with your mentor. Write every detail that comes to mind when you think about Jesus: who he was, what he did, what he said, how he talked with people.
- Read John 7:53-8:11 out loud together. **Yes, out loud.**
  - What stands out? What is Jesus doing? What is Jesus saying? What do you think Jesus wants us to know about God from this story? So, what?
- Write your own definition of grace here.

### **Heart**

- In your experience, who is someone you have known who is like the woman? Who is like the crowd? Who has been like Jesus? Today, this moment, which character are you in the story?
  
- Who has given you “grace” **when it really mattered?** What was that like?

### **Hands**

- Tell a story where you could have stepped in for someone like the woman, but you didn’t. Why not? Why does the story stick with you?
  
- Read the definition of grace on the back. What is something that stands out. Write it here.
- Pray together and listen to the song “Only Grace” by Matthew West to close your time.

**grace** \grās\ n. (but more like a v.)

The free gift in which God gives everything—eternal life, forgiveness, purpose, meaning—to human beings, who respond by trying to earn it.

One time God was trying to explain grace to Duh.

Duh: “God, the Bible says that we are ‘justified by your grace as a gift’ (Romans 3:24). Since I want to be justified, how do I get this grace?”

God: *Well, Duh, grace is not something that I give you so that you can be saved, it is the way that I save you. Grace is the way that I accept you, the way that I love you. Grace means that I love you not because of anything you do but just because I love you. Grace means that I save you from death and give you eternal life as a free gift—you don’t have to do anything in order to be saved.*

Duh: Okay. I get that I don’t have to do something to have a relationship with you. But what if I have done something really bad—like committed murder or adultery, or burned down my neighbor’s house just because? What if I have broken every one of the Ten Commandments many times?

God: *Same thing. Grace means that I love you even if you have done something really bad. Grace means that there is nobody who has done anything so that I don’t still love them. Grace means that even adulterers and murderers are my children.*

Duh: So I don’t have to do anything to be saved, and there is nothing I can do to stop you from saving me. But what about after I am saved? Don’t I have to quit sinning?

God: *Duh, I know you pretty well. I know that after I save you, you’ll try to change. But I know that until you die, you’ll still be a sinner who sins. I love sinners—I sent my Son to die for sinners, for heaven’s sake! Grace means that there is nothing you can do to make me stop loving you.*

Duh: But what about REPENTANCE and FAITH—don’t I have to repent and have faith?

God: *Faith and repentance are things that you do. Faith is the way you receive a promise. My grace is a promise: the promise of eternal life, FORGIVENESS, and a relationship with me. The only way to receive a PROMISE is to believe it. Repentance is similar; it is what happens to you when my word reaches you, and you realize that you need me. So faith and repentance aren’t things that you do. My word creates them.*

Duh: So you are saying I don’t have to do anything.

God: *Duh!*

See also: justification; means of grace; works, good

From *Crazy Talk* by Rolf Jacobson

***CHECK IN***

On (date) \_\_\_\_\_, we completed a caring conversation on this month's topic.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Print Name

Mentor Signature

Please sign, screenshot or email and send to Beth at [bkopecky@bethlehemaberdeen.org](mailto:bkopecky@bethlehemaberdeen.org)

Bless your adventure together!