



These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

## Message Recap:

Read **Matthew 18:23-35** and **2 Chronicles 7:14**

Truth One: Our national conversation has become increasingly graceless and mean, which begs the question; is moralism really working, or do we need the grace of Christ more? Everything in this world is broken, but it is not broken beyond the ability of the grace of Christ to fix it. If you admit that you need grace, you will receive it; and when you receive it, your heart will stay open to give it to others because God's grace comes in and goes out without limits. Truth Two: National fear and anger are all the rage, which begs the question; are we really trusting God? When you find your identity in Jesus instead of a party affiliation or your nation, the more loving and gracious you become in the face of the broken. Instead of being intent on destroying others who disagree, give grace and love unconditionally. Leverage the influence of your life for your Savior over your politics. If you really trust God, you will let His grace and love flow through you in *everything* you do.

## Pray

Jesus, you are above all things. Above political parties, above opinions, and above any allegiance I could have in this world. Help me understand your grace. Help me accept your grace, and then show me where I can shower that grace on those around me. Let me be your light in this broken world. Let me share your love and salvation so everyone will know that you are the only answer to our broken.

## Getting Started

- What do you think about our current national conversation? Is it too divisive? Is it necessary? (Please just share your opinion, and understand that others are just sharing their opinions as well.)
- Share about a time when you moved a conversation from differences to commonality.

## Digging Deeper

1. Truth: Our national conversation is increasingly graceless and mean. Why are we so easily graceless and mean to one another?
2. How would you define grace? Can you share an example of when you've given grace to someone?
3. Why is grace an important topic when it comes to political discussions?
4. Explain this statement: "It is impossible to receive grace from God without giving it to other people." Do you see this play out in your life? How?
5. Our actions and negative emotions are usually a result of our fears. What are your fears? What kinds of actions do you take out of fear?
6. How does trusting God change your perspective about fear, politics, and our national conversation?
7. How will you personally leverage the influence of your life for Jesus' Kingdom in the arena of our national conversations and/or politics? (In other words, how will you apply this message to your daily life?)

## Living Jesus

Living Jesus means putting his Kingdom before country and the grace of Jesus before *everything*. You can be the difference in the world by doing something practical that reveals the healing touch and saving truth of Jesus. Don't just complain, do something to heal the broken! Start by praying the grace of the Gospel into reality. Embrace humility, holding on to your savior tightly and your opinions lightly. Listen more than you speak and seek to actually understand where other people are coming from. You have one life; use it well. Use it to advance the salvation of the world through the grace of Jesus instead of through broken political parties. Be loved by God, and be love to the people around you!

## What's Your Story?

How is God calling you to change yourself and/or our culture? We'd love to hear how God is working in your life.

>> Go to [SevernRunner.info](http://SevernRunner.info) and choose the Stories tile. Then follow the link provided to share your own story; we will even connect you with a writer to help you.