Glimpses of grace

John 1:(1-9),10-18

We hear again the famous prologue to John's Gospel: Jesus is the Word by whom God created the world in the beginning. He existed before John the Baptizer, whose role is to point towards Jesus, the Word made flesh, as the true light.

Read this week's passage:



REFLECT

Choose your favourite spot in your home and take a moment to pray there. Look around the room and notice all the nearby things you are thankful for. Reflect on the idea that all these good things are glimpses of grace; they are tangible reminders that all good things came into being through a God who loves us and is full of grace.

CRAFT

Make your own Zoetrope. A single picture gives us a 'glimpse' of the story, but when you put all the glimpses together, you get a moving image – by putting together our 'glimpses' of God, we sometimes get an image of how God is moving in our lives or in the world.

PLAY

Play a game of hide and seek. Who is the fastest seeker? Pray together for the Spirit's help in seeking and revealing God's grace to the world.

Living Scripture

'But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.' John 1:12

The beginning of John's Gospel describes God's choice to live among us as Jesus. Jesus was seen and accepted by some; feared and rejected by others for many reasons. Today there are still many things that can prevent us from seeing Jesus for who he really is, such as certain traditions, teachings and attitudes.

But following Jesus is not about having knowledge or answers, it is more about imitation – 'being', not 'knowing'. There is no order or command with Jesus, just an invitation, 'Come, follow me.'

The decision before us is not just saying 'yes' to statements of faith but accepting a change of lifestyle and receiving grace to be Christ-like. Jesus – and many of his followers – lived a simple, wandering lifestyle, but he also knew that not everyone can leave home, so he also showed us how to 'follow' metaphorically, a way of 'travelling lightly' in daily life: love God, live simply, show compassion to the needy, and care for the Earth.

Today, how can we accept the gift of grace and choose to simply shape our lives to that of Christ?

First impressions

- What moments of light in the darkness have you noticed recently?
- What gifts does Jesus offer us that the world may not recognise or appreciate?
- How can God's light shine more brightly in your neighbourhood?



Pray

Lord Jesus,
we are thankful that the more time we spend in your company,
the better we get to know you.
As we read your Word, we learn so much more about you.
Even if we live to old age,
we will never totally appreciate the fullness of you.
Our hearts swell with love and praise.
Amen.

LISTEN

Listen to 'Grace Will Lead Us Home' by Matt Redman, Ian Yates and Sam Blake and reflect on glimpses of grace in your life.

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