

Food for Thought
For the week of June 16, 2013
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. As we saw in this weekend's story, Judah tended to get into trouble when hanging out with a bad influence (Hirah). Like Judah, we are all greatly impacted, both for good and for bad, by those closest to us. How do the following verses help us be mindful of picking good friends and avoiding negative influences?

Proverbs 12:26

Proverbs 22:24-25

1 Corinthians 15:33

Take a moment and think about the five people closest to you. Of the five, what characteristics above do they reflect? What characteristics above do you reflect to them? Are there any of the five you'd like to spend more/less time with based on their influence on you?

2. Larry talked about God's incredible grace and reminded us that it's completely unmerited and undeserved. Despite this, God doesn't want us to stop with just receiving grace, but as 2 Peter 3:18 says, he wants us to grow in grace. How do the following verses help us grow in grace?

Colossians 3:1-4

1 Peter 2:1-2

James 4:6

3. One of the biggest indicators of how much we understand God's grace is how freely we give it to other people. What evidences do the following Scriptures give that can be used to see if someone truly understands God's grace?

Luke 6:27-36

John 13:34-35

Ephesians 4:1-3

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Proverbs 12:26

26 The righteous choose their friends carefully,
but the way of the wicked leads them astray. [NIV]

Proverbs 22:24-25

Saying 3

24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person,
do not associate with one easily angered,
25 or you may learn their ways
and get yourself ensnared. [NIV]

1 Corinthians 15:33

33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." [NIV]

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2 Peter 3:18

18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. [NIV]

Colossians 3:1-4

Living as Those Made Alive in Christ

1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. [NIV]

1 Peter 2:1-2

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

James 4:6

6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:
"God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble [NIV]"

3. One of the biggest indicators of how much we understand God's grace is how freely we give it to other people. What evidences do the following Scriptures give that can be used to see if someone truly understands God's grace?

Luke 6:27-36

Love for Enemies

- 27 "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.
- 32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. [NIV]

John 13:34-35

- 34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." [NIV]

Ephesians 4:1-3

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

- 1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. [NIV]