



GRACE

EPISODE 6

GO DEEPER

Forgive One Another

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Introduction

Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you - Ephesians 4:32

Grace: unearned favor. Forgive: release. Kindness: desire to help another. Ramiro and Sandra Robles-Cantu and their kids Jacob, Caroline, and David talk about how efforts are made to weave grace, forgiveness, and kindness into their family fabric.

So, grab your Bible, and as you answer the following questions, keep in mind: What's God saying to you? What are you going to do about it?



Discipline

“it was part of our family tradition to play tennis - now that I’m older I can tell it was not just a tradition – it was a discipline” – Sandra (1:40).

“I’ve learned so many lessons and values from so many coaches, so many fellow players” – Jacob (2:32).

1. Read: Romans 5:3-4.

a. What activities have you been involved in helped shape your character? How?

b. “I lost my mom, when I was 8 years old. She left seven children behind.” – Ramiro (3:34)
Verse Romans 5:3-4 tells of suffering producing character. Has there been suffering in your life that has produced character?

2. What activities is your child or children involved in? Is your child involved in any activities that have a focus on God? Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-25. In this verse, living for Christ is equated with running a race to get the prize. In this case the prize is eternal for us and others. What are things an athlete does that would relate to a life determined to serve God or live for Christ? Are there things in your life personally that you do or would like to do to serve God or to more powerfully live for Christ?

3. If discipline is “training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character¹”? What do these verses tell about God and discipline? Psalm 3:11-12; Proverbs 13:18; 12:1; 29:17; 2 Timothy 1:7; Titus 1:7-9.

¹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/discipline>

4. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Where are you good at encouraging your family (i.e.: words)? Where are you not so good at encouraging your family?



Contrast

“very structured, very disciplined, very proper” – Ramiro about Sandra (4:03).

“very unstructured...a lot more free spirited” – Ramiro (4:16).

5. Read Philippians 2:3. How can contrast in backgrounds help a relationship? How can they hinder a relationship? Are contrasts in your family helping or hindering your relationships?

“he has a great heart” – Sandra about Ramiro (5:03).

“very gentle, very sweet spirited” – Ramiro about Sandra (5:32).

6. Reread Philippians 2:3. What is one compliment you can give to each person in your family today?



Resolving Conflict

“We argue, we have disagreements – we have our faults, we make mistakes, we get angry” – Jacob (6:24).

“You’re going to make mistakes. People are going to hurt you and you’re going to hurt others – you better be ready to forgive yourself and forgive others, because you will make mistakes and you will sin.” – Ramiro (6:47).

7. One can get ready to forgive by understanding how God forgives and what He says about it.

a. What do we understand about forgiveness from these verses? Psalm 130:3-5; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 2:38, 13:38, 26:15-18

b. When asked about people forgiving others, Jesus told *The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant* found in Matthew 18:20-39. What is Jesus trying to teach us in this parable about forgiveness? How important to God is it that we forgive others?

8. Read Ephesians 4:2-3. What are you angry about right now, or are you angry with someone either in or outside your family? How is it affecting you and your family? What’s God saying to you? What are you going to do about it?

“Jacob – you taught me a great lesson – forgiveness – thank you” – Sandra (9:03).
“Maybe we’re doing something right, Ramiro” – Sandra (9:32).

9. Read Ephesians 4:32. Is there someone you need to forgive or ask for forgiveness? Lack of forgiveness can lock us in a prison of frustration and bitterness. We set ourselves free when we forgive. Forgiveness does not say the other person is right. Ask God to help you forgive and give you His peace.



Perspectives on Parenting

“Sometimes parenting is difficult because you don’t see the harvest right away. It is one of the toughest jobs in the world. How it manifests itself in our children is the Lord’s work.” – Ramiro (9:55).

10. Read Hebrews 12:11. What fruits do you see or you waiting to see sprout from your parenting?

“They always bring us closer to God” – David, about Ramiro and Sandra (10:33).

11. Read James 4:7-10. How can you lead your family in drawing nearer to God?

“When we are right with the Lord, everything else falls in to place. When our personal walk is hurting our kids hurt and our family hurts. What the enemy (Satan) want to do is to get us to stop doing what we are supposed to do, and to discourage us, to get us to think there is no hope” – Ramiro (11:42).

12. Read Romans 15:13. According to this verse where does hope come from? Where do you need hope today to keep going? Bring it to the Lord in prayer!

Grace, forgiveness, and kindness have helped the Cantu family remain close. Take a moment to reflect on what you’ve heard God say to you in this session about what your next steps are as a parent and jot them down below.



If you’d like to talk with God about your family, below is a sample prayer:

Father, Thank you that I can know who you are and what you are like through your son, Jesus, who expresses your very character. Help me to imitate you so I can lead my family in imitating you. Help me to be humble, gentle and patient. Help me and my family make allowances for our faults, and be kind to each other, tenderhearted, and forgiving one another just as you have forgiven me through Jesus. Amen.



Dedicate your Family and Parenting to Jesus

Parent Compass wants to give you the opportunity to dedicate (or re-dedicate) your parenting to Jesus Christ during these sessions. If this is something you'd like to do, please go to: Dedicate Your Parenting to Christ in this workbook or www.parentcompass.tv/dedicate/

If you want to know Jesus personally, please go to: Do You Know Christ in this workbook or on <http://www.parentcompass.tv/know-christ/>. To internet chat with someone about Christ, please click on the blue "chat" button in the lower right corner on each page of our website (www.parentcompass.tv).