

WHAT'S GOD LIKE? GOD'S AMAZING GRACE



Memory verse: Romans 3:23-24 ESV

'for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus'

BIG QUESTION: **HAVE YOU EVER WON A FREE GIFT?**

AMAZING GRACE

There's a great story that Jesus told once, it's called the prodigal son. The youngest son goes to his father and asks for his inheritance, this means that he wanted everything now! The Father agrees and he leaves his father's house and travels far away. The son lives a crazy life and wastes all his money, he ends up working in a pigsty and gets so hungry that even the pig's food starts to look good. Finally it says 'he came to himself' (Luke 15:17, ESV), he realizes what he'd done and how much he'd messed up. So he decided to go back to his Father, but when he's still far away, his father sees him and comes running. The Father grabs him and starts kissing him. The son starts this speech about being a sinner and not being worthy. But, the Father almost sounding breathless, tells his servants 'quick get a robe and ring, put them on him and put shoes on his feet. My son's home! Let's celebrate!'

The night I gave my life to God I nearly didn't go to the church. I was still angry and a real mess, but as I sat on the back row of the church listening to the first song, I suddenly came to myself,

I realized how far away from God I really was. I lifted my hands to worship and as I did it was as if the Father God embraced me. I felt this sense of love and forgiveness, as if the Father was kissing me. I didn't feel worthy, but that night God was shouting 'my son's home! Let's celebrate!'

INTERESTING FACT

Have you ever won a free gift from the McDonald's monopoly? No me neither! In fact, your chances of becoming a millionaire in the McDonald's monopoly game are about 1 in 3.5 billion... What! That means you'd have to buy a lot of burgers if you did want to win, so it really isn't free at all.



God's grace is a free gift. We don't deserve it and there's nothing we could do to earn it. It would be easy for the prodigal son to think that while he'd been gone the father had changed, that he didn't feel the same way about his son. Some people do change, but as we've said before, God doesn't. God loves you as much today as He always has and His grace is the same today as it's always been. What's God like? God is grace, so much grace that Peter called him 'the God of all grace' (1 Peter 5:10, ESV). It's limitless it can't be measured! Maybe today you feel far away from the Father, well because of Jesus we can come close to Him again and receive this amazing free gift of grace.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

- How does it feel to know that when you give your life to God, He throws a party.
- Is there someone you know who doesn't deserve grace? How could you show grace to them today?



PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving me your free gift of grace. Help me to give that gift to other people. Amen.