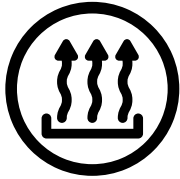




Mission & Values



WARM-UP

What are you most proud of having won as a kid? I.e. sports conference, dance competitions, random raffle, family board game, etc.

Our Values

Not Earned

Not Threatened

Not Alone

Not About Us

Not... Not Fun

Read out loud as a group

Definition of Values: Values are a principle or quality that is held at a high level of importance. If the mission statement communicates “what we are doing” then the values communicate “why we are doing it”.

Read out loud as a group

Value #1- Not Earned:

We receive grace as the change agent of life because being made new is about being loved, not working harder.



What do you like best about this value?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.



How do you see this value at Hope?

Possible Answers: Will vary. At Hope: Preaching/teaching that is authentic, not aspirational, applying theology to real life, normalizing failure as part of the gospel growth, leading with Jesus as the answer, not with “do better” advice. Etc.



How do you see yourself engaging with this value at Hope or in life?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary. Hope- extending forgiveness and grace, welcoming and inviting people no matter their background because it is level ground at the foot of the cross, reminding others that it isn't about working harder, etc.

Our lives- learn something new and be bad at it, memorize a verse on grace and repeat it to yourself when you catch yourself falling into a performance mindset, think though the areas where performance matters (work, school, etc) and pray about honoring God through that thing and ask to be shown how to let go of the weight of that performance, etc.



What does the world tell us to do when we receive something we didn't earn? What does the bible tell us to do when we receive something we didn't earn?

Possible Answers: World: don't accept it, you can't enjoy it, it gives you doubt, you have to give something back to make it equal, etc. Bible: Rejoice! Tell others! Do the same for others!



What makes this value exciting to live out? What makes it hard to live out?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.

Exciting- it's really a beautiful gift and giving gifts can be fun!

Hard- In our culture, almost everything we do has to be earned. Money, grades, bonuses, promotions, etc. If it's not earned it is suspicious, untrustworthy, or manipulative.



How have you seen grace misunderstood, either in your own life or in church culture? What does it look like when grace actually leads to a changed life rather than passivity?

Possible Answers: Grace can be treated as a reason to avoid hard things, delay obedience, or stay stuck. It can sound like "God loves me, so it doesn't really matter." But lived-out grace produces humility instead of pride, movement instead of stagnation, repentance instead of hiding, and joy instead of pressure. Grace becomes the motivation to love, serve, forgive, and take risks, not because we have to prove anything, but because we are already secure.

Activity:

Split up into 4 groups, one passage of scripture per group. Read and answer the following questions in your groups. After 5-10 minutes come back together and present the highlights to the whole.

Group 1

PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11 (NIV)

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Group 2

EPHESIANS 2:1-10 (NIV)

¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Group 3

ROMANS 8:1-11 (NIV)

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Group 4

ACTS 11:19-24 (NIV)

¹⁹ Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. ²⁰ Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. ²² News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. ²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.



What stands out to you?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.



How do you see the “Not Earned” value in your verse?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.



How can we take this idea into our small group?

Possible Answers: Small group- remind each other of grace, extend grace, fight lies of performance together, remind each other that failure is about growth not an identity marker, etc.

DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- What is your typical response when you receive something you didn't earn?
- What would change in your life if you fully surrendered to this truth?
- In your life, where is there resistance to this value?