

# UNEXPECTED

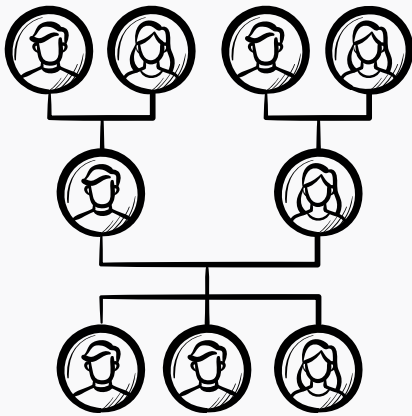
THE SURPRISING **GIFT** THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

## WEEK 2



### Where the story begins

### 1 min recap



In the book of Matthew, the Christmas story begins with the genealogy of Jesus, which includes outcasts, failures, and overlooked people. It also has righteous and faithful followers of God like Abraham and David.

Everyone is invited into the family of God, no matter where they've come from.

### Work it out.

Read 2  
Tim. 4:14-16

1. If grace is a gift no matter your past, what do you think God wants us to do with it when we receive it?
2. How do you know if someone has given you a good gift? What do you do with what you've been given?

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**LEARN**

**read  
outloud**

**Amos  
5:24**

“But let justice (tzedakah) roll down like waters, and righteousness (mishpat) like an ever-flowing stream.”

The God of the Bible is a God of grace and justice. The Hebrew words used to describe biblical justice are tzedakah and mishpat—which reveal God’s nature as Someone who restores the broken and gives back what’s lost to those who need provision.

No matter what happens in an unjust situation like Tamar’s (Gen. 38), God’s grace works toward restoration and healing in this life or the next, which explains why Jesus is in her genealogy.

Grace and justice go hand in hand. God doesn’t let people off the hook; He keeps track of all our tears and is hard at work, making wrong things right, whether we realize or feel that.

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**Think on it.**

Grace and justice are a matter of trust in God’s work on our behalf. **Which do you struggle to believe more, that God is gracious or that He is just?**

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### FOLLOW

What you'll need:

- a notepad, piece of paper, or a phone
- 5-minute timer

**Spend five minutes writing down something in your life that God has given you grace for.**

- Where have you seen his special favor or kindness despite your failures?

**AND something that feels unjust in your life or the life of another.**

- How do you reconcile that with a God who is full of grace? What doubts or concerns do you have that God is just?

### MEDITATE on this passage.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will hope in him.”

(Lam. 3:22-24)

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**WEEK 1**



## ENGAGE



Be sure to stay in step with our L.I.F.E. rhythms as a Group.

We've added new ways you can serve our community this month!

We have several new causes you can give to this month.

Check it out on the app!

