

**Introduction:**

You don't have to look very far to come to the conclusion that the world we live in is messed up and broken. In our world, living paycheck to paycheck is "normal". Being depressed, stressed, overwhelmed, and offended is "normal". The problem is that "normal" is not working, because we were not created for "normal". The good news is that the grace that God offers us through Jesus can change "normal," not only for us but for our entire world, if we are ready to be proactive to affect progress in our lives and in our community.

**Scripture:**

Romans 5:6-8: "When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

Ephesians 2:4-5: "But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)"

Luke 19:10: "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Where have you seen hope or progress this week?
2. What can you observe or learn about the character of God in these three short scripture passages?
3. Encountering Jesus seems to spur radical change in the lives of individuals. What is one change that you have experienced as a result of following Jesus?
4. How has following Jesus changed the way that you view the world or interact with other people? What progress do you still have to make?
5. When you look at what our world views as "normal," it seems very different from the life that God offers us through Jesus. What is one sign of progress that you would love to see in your lifetime?
6. If we are going to follow Jesus & his example, we have to live "on mission". Jesus was proactive in seeking & saving the lost. What is one way that you can be proactive in leading people to Jesus & affecting the progress that you would like to see in this world?

**Take the Next Step:**

The grace that God offers us in Jesus changes lives. That change, that progress, is the antidote to the sin in our lives and in our world. We are commanded to make disciples, to share our faith, and to be proactive in offering Jesus to our world. How can you do that this week?