

Think It Over: This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

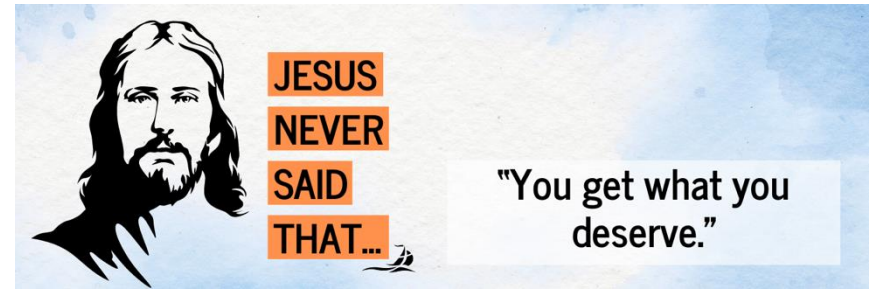
- What is your best “almost getting caught” story? What about your best “getting caught” story? When was the last time you were delighted to see someone get what they deserved? What happened? Why do you think the idea of getting what you deserve is so popular? What are the pros and cons of a “you get what you deserve” mindset?
- Read Luke 23:32-43. What are your initial thoughts? Who were those that mocked Jesus? Explain why they thought they were justified to mock Jesus? When do you believe you are right to mock, even internally, someone who is being punished? What do you think happened for the one thief on the cross to switch to defending Jesus? What did the thief have to understand to ask, “Remember me?” What is amazing about Jesus’ response? How can that give you hope?
- What is so great about Hebrew 9:27-28 MSG? How thankful are you after reading Psalm 103:10 TPT? Describe a time when someone could have given you what you deserved, but they gave you grace instead. In what ways can God’s mercy and grace transform us? How can we show Jesus’ love to others—to our family, friends, and those in our community? Why does God not give us what we deserve? What does that mean personally to you?
- Review each of the four “☞ *We deserve*” points, one at a time. If you are doing this individually, go through one a day. On your fifth day, focus on the Next Steps and Bottom Line. What stands out to you with each point? What do you need to drill down into your heart? Is it ever hard to forgive yourself? How do you identify or have you identified with each point throughout your life? What hope can you take from the fact we don’t have to receive what we deserve? Who in your life needs to hear that?

Next Steps: Do you live like you’re saved by your belief in Jesus or by your accomplishments for Jesus? What is one thing you’re facing that desperately needs the saving power of what Jesus has already done? Is there any guilt you need to acknowledge so Jesus can give you life?

Changing Your Mind: Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.



If you missed a message,
visit www.scc.website
or request a CD at Guest Services.



³³When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁵The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” (³²...Those crucified, rebels* with him also heaped insults on him. Mark 15:32 NIV, *Matthew 27:44 NIV) ³⁶The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” ³⁸There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews. ³⁹One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:33–43 NIV

²⁷Everyone has to die once, then face the consequences. ²⁸Christ’s death was also a one-time event, but it was a sacrifice that took care of sins forever. And so, when he next appears, the outcome for those eager to greet him is, precisely, salvation. Hebrews 9:27–28 MSG

¹⁰You may discipline us for our many sins, but never as much as we really deserve. Nor do you get even with us for what we’ve done. Psalm 103:10 TPT

☞ We deserve death, but Jesus gave us life.

²³ When people sin, they earn what sin pays—death. But God gives his people a free gift—eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 ERV

Good people don’t go to heaven,
forgiven people do.

¹⁰...I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of (life that is full and good ERV). John 10:10 MSG

☞ We deserve condemnation, but Jesus gave us mercy.

Mercy = not receiving the sentence we deserve

¹¹Looking around, she replied, "I see no one, Lord." Jesus said, "Then I certainly don't condemn you either. Go, and from now on, be free from a life of sin." John 8:11 TPT

⁷They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" ⁸Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. ⁹When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. ¹⁰Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" John 8:7–10 NLT

☞ We deserve conviction, but Jesus gave us grace.

Grace = receiving the good we don't deserve

⁴³Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise (place of well-being)." Luke 23:43 NIV

Shalom = May you be healthy, whole, complete
and know where you fit in the universe,
while finding tranquility there.

¹"Don't worry or surrender to your fear. For you've believed in God, now trust and believe in me also. ²My Father's house has many dwelling places. If it were otherwise, I would tell you plainly, because I go to prepare a place for you to rest. ³And when everything is ready, I will come back and take you to myself so that you will be where I am. ⁴And you already know the way to the place where I'm going." John 14:1–4 TPT

☞ We deserve rejection, but Jesus gave us acceptance.

⁵When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today." Luke 19:5 NLT

Acceptance is not approval of behavior.

⁹Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost." Luke 19:9–10 NLT

☞ We deserve to be ignored, but Jesus
gave us another opportunity.

⁵⁶A girl noticed Peter sitting in the firelight. Staring at him, she pointed him out and said, "This man is one of Jesus' disciples!" ⁵⁷Peter flatly denied it, saying, "What are you talking about, girl? I don't know him!" Luke 22:56–57 TPT

Missing the mark (sin) is another
opportunity to start over.

⇒ Like Peter, we underestimate our weakness.

⇒ Like Peter, we follow Jesus at a distance.

⁷Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter (be sure to tell Peter-ERV; even Peter-TPT), that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died." Mark 16:7 NLT

Bottom Line:

Have you rejected rejection and
accepted that you are accepted?

Pastor Dave often uses concepts and ideas from a variety of resources when writing a message. If you have any questions regarding these sources, please don't hesitate to contact Dave at daves@senecacommunitychurch.com.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the "Think It Over" section on the back.