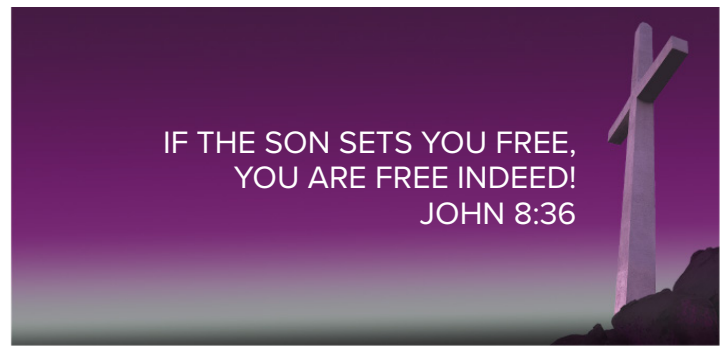


# Jesus 101

## “Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

*“This son of mine was dead and has come to life again.” —Luke 15:24*

In his book *What’s So Amazing about Grace?*,\* Philip Yancey tells the story of a young woman who had run away from home to a big city. Things didn’t work out, and she gradually started to spiral down. Now she is broke, sick, and lives on the street. In desperation, she calls her parents but nobody picks up the phone, so she leaves a message that she will be on the bus to her hometown the next day; if they are waiting for her at the terminal, she will get off the bus, but if not, she will ride on. She did not know what to expect, yet she could have never imagined what she saw: her parents, grandparents, uncles, and cousins were all at the terminal, wearing party hats and holding a banner that read, “Welcome home!”

Throughout the Gospel of Luke, we see God declaring that Jesus is His Son: “You are My beloved Son;” “This is My Son” (Luke 3:22; 9:35). A similar statement is also found in the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32), except that this time the son is utterly unworthy. This is the son who demanded the inheritance before the death of his parents, in effect rejecting his father and family. Knowing that love cannot exist without freedom, the father “divided his wealth” (verse 12) and gave the younger son his part. Then the young man embarks on a destructive journey, squandering his father’s fortune with loose living (verse 13) and prostitutes (verse 30), spiraling down. Later the land experiences a severe famine (verse 14), and he hits bottom. Being hungry, he finds himself a job to feed swine and craves for the pods he is feeding to pigs but is not allowed even that. Have you ever hit bottom? Have you ever felt so lost or know someone who has? Well, you are in for a surprise! When the young man comes back home, he is embraced by a passionate father, wearing a party hat and holding a large “Welcome home” banner! And, most amazingly, the father makes an amazing public proclamation: “this son of mine” (verse 24). Yes, this is my son! Our Father is not ashamed to call us His children! You never stop being your father’s child, no matter how lost or undeserving you may be! Come Home! God will embrace you, saying: “You are Mine!” (Isaiah 43:1).

\*Philip Yancey, *What’s So Amazing About Grace?* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997).