



“UpGrade”
— Ctrl+Alt+Delete—
Small Group Plan

David Seamands in his book Healing Grace, uses the difference between the son and the servant of a household to explain the confidence a child of God can have.

Since everyone in India clearly understands the difference between the two, I said to him, “Devadas, let’s do some role playing. You be the servant in the family and I’ll be the son. Let’s live out a day in their lives, from morning to bedtime, and see what the differences are.” He agreed. Before long we were really into it, putting into words the wide differences between our roles.

The servant is accepted and appreciated on the basis of *what he does*, the child on the basis of *who he is*. The servant starts the day *anxious and worried*, wondering if his work will really please his master. The child *rests in the secure love* of his family. The servant is accepted because of his *workmanship*, the son or daughter because of a *relationship*. The servant is accepted because of his *productivity and performance*. The child belongs because of his *position as a person*.

At the end of the day, the servant has peace of mind only if he is sure he has *proven his worth by his work*. *The next morning his anxiety begins again*. The child can be *secure all day, and know that tomorrow won’t change his status*.

When a servant *fails, his whole position is at stake*; he might lose his job. When a child fails, he will be grieved because he has hurt his parents, and he will be corrected and disciplined. But *he is not afraid of being thrown out*. His *basic confidence is in belonging and being loved, and his performance does not change the stability of his position*

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- When you were a child, where in your house did you feel warmest and safest? Explain.

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

WHEN YOU FEEL WIPED OUT

Romans 8:26

*The Spirit helps us
in our weakness.*

- How does the Spirit help us?
- When have you found strength at a time of weakness?
- Why do some think that God steps away from us when we are weak?

WHEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON

Romans 8:28

*In all things God works for the good
of those who love him.*

- Why is it difficult to trust God when things are not clear?
- How can anything good come out of something painful or unpleasant?
- Has this ever happened to you or someone you know? Explain.

WHEN YOU FEEL ATTACKED

Romans 8:31

*If God is for us,
who can be against us?*

- When have you felt attacked? What was its impact?
- Describe what happens when you place the one who is against you (attacker) right next to the one who is for you (Creator of the Universe). What difference do you see? How does it change your viewpoint?
- Honestly, considering your own weaknesses and failures, is it easy or difficult for you to believe that God is for you? Explain.

WHEN YOU FEEL FRUSTRATED AND DEFEATED

Romans 8:37

*In all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.*

- How does the world send its messages of defeat, and why do people listen to them?
- What kind of lifestyle is more likely to feel frustrated and defeated?
- Why does God say that even “*in all these things*” the word He chooses to describe us is “*conquerors*”?
- Describe how Christians are conquerors?

WHEN YOU FEEL ALONE

Romans 8:39

[Nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- How does it feel to be alone?
- Is it possible to be unworthy of God's love? Explain.
- Why have so many decided that God could never love them?
- Describe the life that is beginning to understand and accept that God loves them in spite of their failures.

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- What best helps you to feel like a son or daughter rather than a servant in God's household (relationships, activities, readings, etc.)?
- How can confidence, humility and submission live together in the same life?
- What are some of the best ways to instill in others the certainty of God's love?
- Close by thanking God for His amazing love.