

# DANGEROUS FAITH

## Discussion Notes

### OFFENSIVE GRACE

Philip started by saying that we live in an 'age of judgement': we live in a world where we want to punish sins and pick sides.

- What does this mean?
- Do you agree with the statement?
- What does 'punishing sins' look like for us today?
- In what areas of our life do we see this want to 'pick sides'? What are the dangers of this?

When we think of Jesus we might not immediately think 'offensive' or 'dangerous'. Our impression of Jesus is more likely to be meekness and humility. But actually, Jesus upset people, offended them and got under their skin. After his very first sermon people wanted to kill him because they were so offended.

- Is it surprising that Jesus is in fact 'dangerous'?
- Is this picture of Jesus as someone who offended people and challenged them something that would surprise your friends who don't go to church?

Read Luke 4:14-28 together.

Jesus recites Isaiah 61 but stops before the final line 'the day of vengeance of our God.' The Jews would have expected this line because religion says that bad things happened to bad people, so the Romans who have been oppressing the Jews will face 'the day of vengeance' and get what they deserve. Philip said we like the 'karma' version of religion because 'we can understand it' and 'we can win at it'. Yet Jesus ignores this type of religion and offers grace, the complete opposite.

- Philip says grace means good things happen to bad people: it is something we 'cannot understand' and 'cannot win it'. Do you agree?
- Why is the fact that 'we cannot win it' so hard for us to get on board with?

Jesus goes on to say that in the Old Testament we say examples whereby bad people who were enemies of the Jewish people - rapists and pillagers - received healing and blessing from God.

- Do your friends find this idea offensive? If so, why?
- Do we really understand what it means for our enemies to be blessed by God?
- Do we honestly think that anyone can receive grace? Is this idea attractive to our friends or not?

Philip finished by saying 'don't waste God's grace'.

- What does this mean?
- How do we waste God's grace?

This may be a good opportunity to share communion together. As we do so we remember the cost of grace for Jesus and choose to accept his grace for ourselves. You may want to read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 as a way of introducing communion.